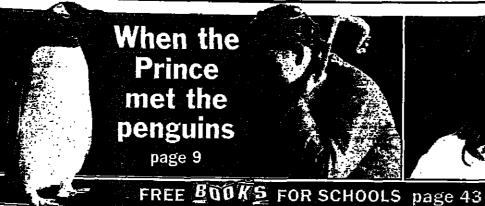
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TUESDAY MARCH 16 1999



Pfeiffer gives up on sex appeal page 43



What your wedding list says about you

page 17

: How did your team score? pages 24,25

http://www.the-times.co.uk

Brussels accused of losing control

Resign call to Santer and his team

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES SANTER, the President of the European Commission, was under pressure to resign with members of his team last night after outside inspectors released a devastating report that concluded that he had effectively lost control of the Brussels executive.

In an unprecedented crisis for the European Union's administrative machine. MEPs of most political camps urged Mr Santer to take full responsibility for an epidemic of fraud. irregularities, cronyism and mismanagement that the auditors found rampant in the Commission.

The buck stops with Mr Santer and he cannot avoid his responsibility." Pauline Green, the British Labour MEP who heads the Socialist Group, the largest bloc in the European Parliament, said.

Alan Donnelly, leader of the Labour Party in the Parliament, called on Mr Santer and Edith Cresson, the French Commissioner also severely criticised, to stand down. "If the credibility of the Commission and the European Union itself. " he said of Mr Santer.

Edward McMillan-Scott, Conservative leader in the Parliament, said: "The Commission must go tonight."

Some MEPs said that the resignations of Mme Cresson and Mr Santer were the minimum needed to clear the air after the report.

Whether Mr Santer resigns or others stand down separately, the credibility of the Commission President's administration was shredded by the auditors' report. The upheaval in Brussels comes at a critical time for the EU as government leaders are due to gather in Berlin next week to negotiate a major six-year reform to FU spending.

The auditors' report was also claimed last night as vin-

TV & RADIO50, 51



Jacques Santer: under sure to clear the air

dication by Paul van Buitenen, the Commission auditor who blew the whistle to the European Parliament last December on corrupt practices in the Commission and was suspended for his pains.

The auditors concluded that fraud and corruption had passed unnoticed while Commissioners denied that they had been aware of what was going on in their areas. "Protpart of Commissioners are tantamount to an admission of a loss of control by the political authorities over the administration that they are supposedly running, " the report said. This loss of control implies at the outset a heavy responsibility for both the Commissioners individually and the Commission as a whole."

No individual Commissioners were accused of personal dishonesty or illegal gain in the long-awaited report by senior European legal officials. but the investigators detailed a saga of of corrupt practices and lax management.

As expected, Mme Cresson, received the harshest condemnation, for fraud carried out under her management and for appointing a dentist-friend to a well paid post for which he was not qualified.

In addition to the damning conclusions on his leadership, Mr Santer was blamed for failing to take any meaningful interest" in a scandal involving the Commission's internal security service, an afair now under police investigation. That situation had evolved into "a state within a state," said the auditors' team. led by Andre Middlehoek, a former Dutch chief of the EU

Court of Auditors. In blunt language that shocked senior Commission officials who had expected more measured treatment, the auditors concluded that a culture of cover-up and evasion of accountability pervaded the Commission.

In conclusion, the report said: "It is becoming difficult to find anyone who has even the slightest sense of responsibility. However, that sense of responsibility is essential. It must be demonstrated, first and foremost by the Commissioners individually and the Commission as a body. The cept of responsibility of all substance is a dangerous one. That concept is the ultimate manifestation of democracy."

Among other Commissioners criticised for abuses under their administration was Manuel Marin of Spain, who headed aid programmes that suffered huge swindles.

Examining charges of nepotism, the auditors also found that Monika Wulf-Mathies, a German Commissioner, had used inappropriate procedures to recruit a member of her personal staff. Also named for irregulaties

but not strongly criticised were Emma Bonino of Italy, in charge of humanitarian affairs, and Christos Papoutsis, the Greek Commissioner.

Arrogant Cresson, page 13 Leading article, page 19



Troops guarding the wreckage of Rosemary Nelson's BMW after it was blown up by a booby-trap device in Lurgan, co Armagh, yesterday

Car bomb threatens peace process



Rosemary Nelson: leading

THE car-bomb murder of a leading nationalist lawyer plunged Northern Ireland's peace process into deep crisis vesterday, and as darkness fell last night rioting erupted near the scene of the explosion in Lurgan, Co Armagh.

President Clinton was hoping to lay the groundwork for a breakthrough on IRA decommissioning when he meets Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, and David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, at the White House tomorrow, but Rosemary Nelson's killing makes it almost inconceivable that the IRA will agree to begin disarming before Good Friday's deadline.

The murder was widely blamed on loyalist paramili-taries, but Sinn Fein leaders openly accused the Royal Ul-

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent because Mrs Nelson had

fought a number of high-profile cases against the police. Nationalists took to the streets of Lurgan and youths hurled stones and petrol bombs at police and soldiers.

This has deepened the crisis, there is no doubt about that," said Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator. "This is a very, very serious development and all of us have to be very concerned. "Sir Reg Empey, one of Mr Trimble's closest allies, said that if loyalists were responsible "all they have done is hand to the republican movement a propaganda victory on a plate".

Mrs Nelson, 40, was killed by a boobytrap device beneath her silver BMW car. It exploded seconds after she drove away from her home in a naster Constabulary of collusion tionalist housing development

on Lurgan's northern fringe at 12.40pm. Her eight-year-old daughter was at lunch in her primary school 100 yards away and her two sons were on a school trip in France.

The car slewed sideways into a hedge. Its doors and windows were blown out, scattering debris across the road. Firemen used hydraulic equipment to cut Mrs Nelson out and she was rushed to Craigavon hospital with severe leg and abdominal injuries. She died in the intensive care unit at 3.100m with her husband at her side.

Mrs Nelson had just returned from a weekend in County Donegal and her car had stood unattended outside her house during that time. Mrs Nelson's work had

made her an obvious target.

Continued page 2, col 3



WEATHER26 CROSSWORDS26. 52 LETTERS19 OBITUARIES21 LIBBY PURVES ARTS ... CHESS & BRIDGE ...45 COURT & SOCIAL20 IN BUSINESS.....

BUSINESS ..



Police arrest Muslim cleric in dawn swoop

By Daniel McGrory, Stephen Farrell and Bill Frost

THE radical Muslim cleric. Abu Hamza al-Masri, was being questioned last night by anti-terrorist squad officers after being arrested in a dawn raid at his West London home. Scotland Yard detectives seized two other Muslim activ-

ists as part of their inquiries into terrorist activity abroad. Yemeni authorities accuse Mr al-Masri, a half-blind veteran of the Afghan wars, of inolvement in the kidnap of 16 Western tourists which ended in the death of three Britons and an Australian last December. Two of his sons, and others from his London-based Supporters of Sharia group. are on trial for a plot to bomb British targets in Aden. The Egyptian-born Mr al-Masri, 40, has denied any links with

The three men arrested yesterday are all Egyptian. Yassir al-Serri, 39, runs the Islamic Observatory Centre in Maida Vale, northwest London, but the identity of the third man, aged 36, and from London, was not disclosed. British Muslim leaders last

night condemned the raids and held an urgent meeting to ed to demonstrate today outside Charing Cross police sta-tion where the three are held. Lawyers for the men are de-

manding to know why the police staged dawn raids on their family homes. One legal source said: "Both Hamza and Serri took part in a demonstration outside the gates of Downing Street on Friday. They are very high-profile and the po-lice could have asked to speak Continued on page 2. col l



kneŵ everybody else would be in black tie

The Prince of Wales visited

Sea Lion Island, most souther-ly of the Falklands, which has

40,000 penguins......Page 9

Penguin Prince

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT JACK STRAW is to set a new minimum jail term for the two

Straw will set terms

for Bulger's killers

boys convicted of murdering James Bulger in spite of a European Commission of Human Rights ruling yesterday that political involvement in sentencing breached their human rights.

The Home Secretary will make his announcement later this year as the European Court of Human Rights hears an appeal that Robert Thompson and Jon Venables were denied a fair trial. At present the boys are detained indefinitely with no minimum term laid

down. The full hearing will come after yesterday's ruling that the trial in 1993 was a "severely intimidating proce-

dure" for both boys, then aged

The ruling was condemned by Denise Fergus, the mother of James, who was battered to death. She said she was sickened that the case would not go away. Sean Sexton, her solicitor, said she wished to be left alone to get on with her

> Legal changes, page 4 Leading article, page 19

Widow was starved

A doctor who ordered nursing home staff to starve an 85-year-old widow and to let her "slip away" was accused of serious professional muis-

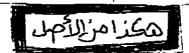
The woman died 58 days after nutrition was withdrawn, weighing 3st 12lb.........Page 3

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6:00PM NEWS



(REPEATED 6:30PM ON ITV)



No question, this can happen anywhere, sauna or later

t was good of the Home Office Minister Kate Hooey to sport a silky Thai-style kimono-cum-hostess-gown at Questions yesterday. Sadly the veteran backbench Labour MP, Joe Ashion (Basseilaw) was not there to see her. He also missed Margaret Beckett, the House Leader, wearing a rather severe Mao-collared tunic-suit in the Oriental style, in a shade of blushing peach-blos-

Still, the rest of us turned up. And what luck! It was Home Office Questions. Ouite apart from the Ashton percerinations, this was the chance for MPs to raise that morning's recommendation from the European Commission of Human Rights, on the James Bulger trial.

Nobody mentioned it. One wonders what planet MPs live on. Like a scratched CD, and regardless of what's actually in the news, they just keep repeating the same old themes: police numbers, bobbies-on-the-beat, drugs, ani-

Maybe they forgot Bulger. Each exercised a favourite bee in the honnet. Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewes) complained to the Home Secretary that prisoners in Lewes were shouting obscenities from their cell windows at horrified shoppers below. The minister said the authorities are now closing inmates' windows. Someone should close Mr Baker's.

Still, there would surely be mention of the mystery surrounding Mr Ashton's adventures at the Thai House and Siam Sauna? Why was he

This sketchwriter longs to believe that Mr Ashton did



have a massage, as the relaxing effect of this treatment may explain the recent liberalisation of the MP's views on

Before his visit to Northampton, Mr Ashton was against an equal age of consent, saying he feared exploitation of the young. But after Northampton he must have changed his mind because at

the end of January Mr Ashton voted for 16 as the age of consent. The Stonewall gay lobbying group should send complementary Thai parlour vouchers to other moral conservatives in both Houses, in case a little massage loosens them

But back to the Commons. where slavering journalists placed bets on who would

first raise the affair. A number of questions on the Order Paper could be twisted that way, but the most propitious was Question II: Jenny Jones (Lab. Wolverhampton SW) wanted to know the Home Secretary's plans "to review the law on kerb-crawling". Her question, when reached, turned to a discussion on the exploitation of young women.

And nobody mentioned Northampton The words. "Thai", "massage" and "par-lour found no lips to frame them. Nobody even winked. When the MP for Northamp-

Marks &

Spencer

pulls GM

products

off shelf

BY NICK NUTTALL AND PHILIP WEBSTER

MARKS & SPENCER an-

nounced yesterday that it is taking all genetically modified foods off its shelves. In re-

sponse to consumer concern, it

was removing all GM ingredients from St Michael products.

A spokesman said: "Al-though we believe there is a

place for genetic modification,

customers are concerned about the speed at which these

developments are being pushed through. M&S would

continue to monitor develop-ments in GM technology "and will consider any opportuni-ties which bring direct benefit

The move came amid fur-

ther indications from the Gov-

ernment that genetically modi-

fied crops are unlikely to be

planted commercially for at

least three years. Although the

industry accused the Govern-ment of trying to pressurise it

into a three-year freeze, minis-ters confirmed privately that

that would be the outcome of

discussions going on with lead-

bury, the Science Minister.

welcomed the prospect of a vol-

untary deal with the industry.

seed companies reacted with surprise to suggestions that they had already agreed to a moratorium. Some of them, in-

cluding Novartis and Zeneca,

denied they had put commer-

cial exploitation on hold. A

spokesman for AgrEvo, which

has a herbicide tolerant oil seed ready for farmers, said

yesterday: "It is totally untrue

to suggest we have done a se-

cret deal." The industry sus

pects someone in government

or from a pressure group

planted reports at the weekend

to agree to a three-year ban.

to put pressure on companies

On Sunday, the Govern-

ment also denied that a "se-

cret" deal had been done. However, ministers are hoping for an arrangement under which

the companies will agree that

for environmental and politi-

cal reasons there will be no

planting for three years. Sen-

ior ministers confirmed that

Environment Department offi-

cials were in talks with the in-

dustry and suggested that the

likeliest result would be an ef-

fective agreement not to plant

Tony Blair has made plain

that there will be no ban but it

is clear that ministers do not

expect to have conclusive re-

sults from tests to allow plant-

ing for three years. A three-year ban would take some of the heat off ministers by satisfy-

ing the demands being made

by green groups, water firms

and English Nature, the Gov-

ernment's wildlife advisers.

the crops before 2002.

The day after Lord Sains-

ing manufacturers.

to our customers".

ton N. Sally Keeble (Lab) rose to ask about crime in shopping centres, shopping centres were where Ms Keeble

What a po-faced lot our MPs have become, now the Tories are no longer the target. Not a giggle, not a smile from the government benches. Labour whips will have put the screws on backbenchers, insisting there should be no mention of Mr Ashton and his travels - even by way of

As for the Tories, what a wealth of secret shame lay be-

neath their oh-so courteous discretion. "Hodie tibi - cras mihi" is their precautionary motto: to you today, to me tomorrow.

Were the House of Commons to be adapted for light operetta, this would have been the point at which the entire massed choir of Conservative backbenchers rose in a soft background chorus: There but for the grace of God go we," as, to the fore, Ron Davies belts out I am what I am: and the Government front bench looks sheep-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Peers undermine £2bn rebate battle

A parliamentary committee undermined Tony Blair's battle to save Britain's £2 billion rebate from the European Union. With Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, due at Downing Street today to prepare for next week's EU summit on the budget, the all-party House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities suggested Mr. Blair should put the cashback deal into the negotiations to help to reform the budget. Mr Blair's press spokesman suggested last night that the Government's position was uncompromising. Even with the rebate, Britain remained the fifth largest contributor and was only the tenth richest EU country, he said.

Games 'need cash aid'

Organisers of the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester told MPs they needed more help from the Government to stage the event. The Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee heard that the cost of staging the ten-day games had risen from an original estimate of £58 million to £70-£90 million. There are growing fears that, without more government support, the event could lose millions of pounds, with local council taxpayers picking up the bill.

'Runny nose' secret

Scientists have discovered what causes a chronically runny nose, one symptom of a condition that leads to thousands of deaths. They have isolated the "biological trigger" that causes uncontrolled mucus production in the lungs and airways. Victims of hypersecretory diseases such as cystic fibrosis and chronic bronchitis literally drown in their own secretions. American scientists believe that they will now be able to control the condition through drugs.

Life sentence for rapist

A "psychopathic" teenager was told he will spend the rest of his life in prison after he admitted raping a 92-year-old wid-ow. Philip Green. 19, of Lianishen. Cardiff, attacked the woman, an Austrian Jew who had fled to Britain during the Nazi occupation, after sniffing 13 tins of butane lighter fuel and breaking into the woman's house. Green admitted two charges of rape, aggravated burglary and grievous bodily barm with intent.

Crying clue to Aids

Tears and saliva contain a powerful antidote to HIV, scientists have found. The discovery, by scientists at the New York University Medical Centre, may explain why the virus cannot be transmitted by saliva and could pave the way for an entirely new type of treatment for the disease. The finding comes from a five-year study into why the urine of pregt women is effective in controlling the reproduction of the HTV virus in an infected person.

Boyzone baby

The Boyzone pop singer Ronan Keating, 22, became a father yesterday. His wife, Yvonne, a 25-year-old model, gave birth to a boy weighing 10lb 4oz at Mount Carmel Hospital, Dublin. The couple have named the baby Jack. Keating said: "Both mum and baby are both healthy and strong, a wee bit tired but very happy." The couple married in the Caribbean last year after a short romance, although they have been friends for many years.

Dr Philip Sugarman

Last-ditch effort to delay ban on duty-free FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN will join Germany in a last-ditch attempt to delay the end of duty-free sales for travellers inside Europe after European Union ministers failed yesterday to come close to agreeing to delay the abolition of the industry.

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, will raise the prospects for a last-minute reprieve when he meets Tony Blair in London today to prepare for next week's EU summit in Berlin. However. German officials were pessimistic about the chances of success after strong opposition from the finance ministers of six EU

states in Brussels yesterday. A unanimous vote by all 15 governments is needed to renew discussion of the decision. taken in 1991, to end duty-free sales for travellers crossing the EU's internal sea and air

PROTEST STRIKE

Tourists and lorry-drivers found their travel plans in chaos as French portworkers in Calais went on 24-hour strike in protest at the planned abolition of duty-free shopping, which they say will cost jobs. Ferry-workers block-ed the port and halted traffic through the Chan-nel Tunnel: the blockades L Work ers also marched through Calais and blockaded a motorway in Rennes.

Cleric held

Continued from page I to them at any time, so why

burst into bedrooms when

their children are there. Why

the heavy-handed tactics?" Sev-

en of Mr al-Masri's children.

celeron"

frontiers on July I. Demonstrators in Brussels and a Channel port stoppage by ferry work-ers yesterday failed to sway the determination of ministers from Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Holland, Portugal and Italy to end the perk.

"We tried to reach a unanimous agreement but, on the contrary, there was a majority against," said Werner Müller, the German Economics Minister. " I do not have much hope. The majority is against and the Commission does not want it." he added.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, acknowledged that pros-pects were fading for extend-ing the deadline, but the Government was still worried about the impact to jobs and the likely confusion over how to apply duties in sea and air crossings between states with widely differing tax levels.

EU officials said a decision would be needed by the end of this month if the industry were to be reprieved because of the time required to reverse the existing legislation.

Mario Monti. the Commissioner responsible for taxation, repeated the Commission's determination to end what it considers to be an anomaly in the EU's customsfree single market. "There is no such thing as a duty-free purchase because the taxes are naid by other people and we must put an end to a situation where ordinary European citizens are paying for other peo-



Nationalists' heroine had dangerous foes

By Martin Fletcher, chief ireland correspondent

ROSEMARY NELSON had received many deaths threats in recent years, but had ignored them all. Nobody would bother killing her, she used to say.

But Mrs Nelson was an obvious target for loyalist ex-tremists. She had represented the nationalist residents of Portadown's Garvaghy Road, who have refused to let the Orange Order complete its annual Drumeree church parade.

Another client was Colin Duffy, who was accused of murdering two RUC officers in 1997, but had charges against him dropped, and she had also represented the family of Robert Hamill, a young Catholic man beaten to death by loyalists in Portadown in 1997 in full view of the police. "She took up issues no one else would touch," said Delores Kelly, deputy mayor of Craigavon.

Republicans were quick to ssert that Mrs Nelson was also an obvious target for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, saying that her murder was a repeat of that of Pat Finucane, the nationalist solicitor killed ten years ago by loyalists act-ing, republicans insist, in collusion with the security forces. Last month Mrs Nelson joined a high-profile campaign for a judicial inquiry into Mr Finucane's murder. Mrs Nelson had lodged nu-

merous complaints against

of spitting in her face and hitting her with a riot shield. Ann Cadwallader, a Belfast iournalist and close friend of Mrs Nelson, said that the lawyer had worried only about

the RUC, and accused officers

the safety of her clients. "She was a very angry per-son and threw herself life and soul into her work. She believed passionately in upholding the rule of law and fight-ing for justice for her clients." Ms Cadwallader said.

Mrs Nelson was raised in Lurgan, educated at University in Belfast and married to Paul Nelson, an accountant. Their two sons are aged 13 and 11, and their

Car bomb threat to peace

Continued from page 1 She represented the nationalist residents of Portadown's

Garvaghy Road, who blocked the Orange Order's annual Drumcree parade last July, and met Tony Blair at Downing Street on the residents' behalf last month. She represented Colin

Duffy, a republican who was accused of murdering two policemen in Lurgan in 1997, but against whom charges were dropped. She represented the family of Robert Hamili, a Portadown Catholic beaten to death by loyalists while the police allegedly looked on, and was in the process of prosecuting the police over the case. She had also filed numerous formal complaints of police

harassment and intimidation. Suspicion immediately fell on two loyalist splinter groups, the Orange Volun-

teers and Red Hand Defenders, who have been attacking Catholic homes with primitive devices in recent weeks. But Mr McGuinness said this bomb was very sophisticated and claimed the security forces had systematically targeted human rights campaigners.

Within two hours of Mrs Nelson's death, a crowd of 200 had marched from the town's nationalist Kilwilkee estate to Lurgan's police station where John O'Dowd, a Sinn Fein councillor, said those looking for Mrs Nelson's murderers "should hook no further". Mr Blair condemned what

he called a "disgusting act of brutality". He said: "The sole aim of the murderers is to remove any chance of reconciliation. They will not be allowed to succeed. Most of Northern Ireland's

political leaders were in Washington for what will now be muted celebrations of St Patrick's Day tomorrow. Without a downpayment of IRA weapons before Good Friday. Mr Trimble will not admit Sinn Fein to government and the peace accord faces collapse. Gerry Adams. Sinn Fein's president, drew parallels with the 1939 murder of Pat Finucane, another prominent republican solicitor killed by loyalists with the alleged collusion of the security forces.

A report ("Psychiatrist gave warning of Stone's killing fantasies", October 24) on the conviction of Michael Stone for the morders of Lin and Megan Russell stated that a few days before the murders Stone had visited the Trevor Gibbens Unit in Maidstone, where he was an outpatient under the care of Dr Philip Sugarman, and told Dr Sugarman he had been fantasising about killing children. The article also stated that, concerned that he might harm someone, Stone had asked to be admitted to the unit, but was refused a bed. We now understand, and accept, that both statements were incorrect. In fact, Stone did not even see Dr Sugarman at that particular time. We apologise unreservedly to Dr Sugarman for any implication that he had failed in his duty to take the necessary steps to protect the public from the danger that Stone posed, and for any embarrassment which Dr Sugar-

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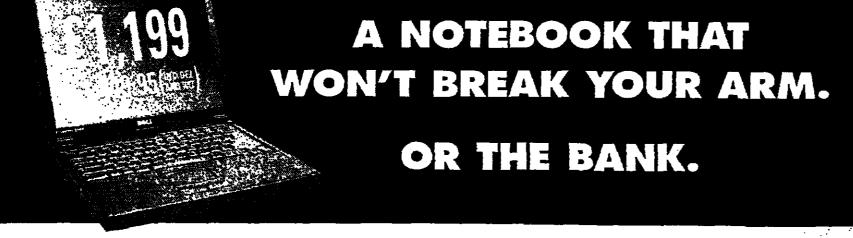
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all under 12, were inside the terraced house at Shepherds Bush when it was raided. His Moroccan second wife and other women relatives were led away by police as forensic experts moved in. Other detectives towed away his left-hand drive car. Al-Masri: seized at dawn equipped with attachments to his bedroom after police broke enable him to drive using his metal arms. He had lost both down his door. Scotland Yard described the hands in a bomb blast in Afarrests as "peaceful" and had been planned for some time. Mr al-Serri, 39, who is also "It is part of an ongoing opera-tion into terrorism abroad." known as Abu Ammar, claimed he was dragged from

A NOTEBOOK THAT



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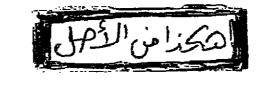
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Doctor told nurses to starve widow

Patient took 58 days to die, writes Michael Horsnell

A DOCTOR who ordered nursing home staff to starve an 85-year-old woman and to let her "slip away" was accused of serious professional misconduct vesterday.

Some staff defied him and continued to give Mary Ormerod her prescribed food supplement until the supply ran out. But she died 58 days after the nutrition had been with-

Mrs Ormerod, a widow, was said to have been "skin and bone" when she died in August 1995 at Oxford House nursing home, Preston, weigh-

Ken Taylor, 51, instructed murses and care assistants to withdraw the supplement Fresubin two months earlier, the professional conduct commitee of the General Medical Council was told.

Mrs Ormerod, a bedridden patient who had suffered a series of strokes, had not lost her swallowing reflex and communicated by squeezing the nurses' hands. They were said to be dismayed at the doctor's instruction and demanded that he put it in writing.

After the death of Mrs Ormerod, a Roman Catholic with four daughters, a nurse reported the case to police. They conducted a murder inquiry on behalf of the coroner, but the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to take

Rosalind Foster, counsel for the GMC, told the hearing that she was hoping to "avoid terms like euthanasia" be-

Dr Taylor, a former nurse who qualified as a doctor in 1974 and ran Ashton health centre in Preston, is accused of knowing that the withdrawal of the food supplement would or might hasten the death of his patient. She was said to have been in a stable condition before the withdrawal, although she could not speak or

move her limbs. The doctor told staff that flushould be administered. but, when he stopped the Fresubin, which was given orally by syringe, June Bleasdale, the deputising matron, asked him to record his decision in the

patient's nursing care plan. Ms Bleasdale, who will be giving evidence, told him that she disagreed with his instruction and would have no part in carrying in out. Dr Taylor, who denies mis-



Ken Taylor: denies

MP says officers leaked sex raid story

By Paul Wilkinson and Philip Webster

caught in a That massage par-lour during a police raid de-nied yesterday that he had tak-en part in or paid for sexual services. He accused police officers of leaking details of the Joe Ashton, the 65-year-old

member for Bassetiaw in the East Midlands, said that his lawyers were considering asking the Police Complaints Authority to investigate how the incident at the Thai House and Siam Sauna in Northampton appeared in the Sunday papers. His statement, issued from his home, however, failed to ex-

plain what he was doing at the pariour. The outspoken backbencher denied reports suggesting that address when questioned and that he was traced through his car registration. Three other men are on bail after their ar-rest last November in the police raid on the premises, situat-

ed between a church and a fish

and chip shop.

A number of women were also detained by officers, who were investigating complaints that some had been forced to work on the premises against their will. Seven have been deported to Thailand. Five others who are legally entitled to live in Britain were released.

Yesterday Mr Ashton, once an award-winning journalist and today a campaigner for tougher laws on privacy to protect the lives of public figures, broke the silence he had observed since the reports began circulating at the weekend.

He came to the gate of his house in Sheffield where he lives with Margaret, his wife of 42 years, to issue the brief print-



Joe Ashton outside his home yesterday. "I did not pay for sexual services," he said

Woman sues over surprise baby

By JOANNA BALE

A MOTHER is claiming £200,000 compensation from a gynaecologist who prescribed a hormone drug to regulate her menstrual cycle after allegedly failing to detect that

she was pregnant.

By the time Pauline Mattacks, 46, discovered that she was expecting a baby, it was too late for an abortion and she gave birth to a boy. Simon,

Ms Mattacks told the High Court yesterday that she would have had a termination had Chineze Otigbah, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, diagnosed the pregnancy when she went to see her in January 1995 complaining of irregular and heavy periods.

Dr Otigbah prescribed norethisterone, which can cause masculinisation of female foe-tuses. Ms Mattacks, then 42, took the drug for three months until her pregnancy was confirmed by a test by her GP.

Her pregnancy, at 24 weeks. was too far advanced for termination. Her son was born healthy that August. Ms Mattacks, who also has a son aged 11, lives on income support. She is claiming the cost of

bringing up the boy. She said that her relationship with his father had been "casual" and that she had used a contraceptive only "occasionally because she had thought she might be menopausal. When she missed periods, she had two home pregnancy tests which were negative. She ascribed symptoms including weight gain to the drug. Dr Otigbah told the court:

"If there was any iota of doubt in my mind about whether she was pregnant I would have done the pregnancy test." She and the Royal Hospitals NHS Trust deny liability. The

Clerk stole money to take work courses

By SIMON DE BROXELLES

A COUNCIL derk who embezzled nearly £18,600 and spent some of the money on courses to improve her promotion pros-pects was yesterday given a suspended jail sentence.

Hayley Latham, 24, a payroll clerk with South Pembrokeshire County Council in Wales, created "ghost" employ-ees and pocketed their salaries for almost a year.

She had been promoted from a typing job to become secretary to the council's head of personnel, but when she was transferred to the finance department without any training she felt "at sea". Swansea Crown Court was told. Latham, from Haverford-

west, admitted five counts of theft and was given an 18-month suspended sentence Her barrister, Andrew Clemes, said: "She knows that she acted dishonestly and she felt some relief when she was

discovered. Passing senience, Robert Britton, the Recorder, said that it was "an extremely seri-

Stuntman flies into a real-life drama

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A STUNTMAN who once tried to is to the River Avon in a car towing a caravan had an unscheduled brush with death when his aircraft's engine failed while he was being exammed for a pilot's licence.

Andrew Aish was flying solo above the Black Mountains in Wales on the last leg of a 100-mile test flight when his Cessna began to

Mr Aish, 41, from Taunton in Somerset, hedge-hopped into a field where he crash-landed at over 90 mph. The £25,000 aircraft, owned by Haverfordwest School of Flying. was a write-off after losing its undercarriage and then skidding nose first through a row of trees. With

fuel leaking from the tanks. Mr Aish made a hasty exit and walked away with cuts and bruises.

prior approval of the courts, when he allegedly should have

done so. He also stands ac-

cused of failing to reassess

Mrs Ormerod's condition dur-

ing the eight weeks that she

Miss Foster said: "It is not

possible to detect what it was

that caused Dr Taylor to order the withdrawal of nutrition."

Dr Taylor told police: "In view

of her medical condition and

history of strokes, I fully ex-

pected her to have another

stroke which could prove fa-

tal." He gave the cause of death as brain failure.

In a letter to the GMC, he

said: "I believe that my care

was ethical and appropriate. I did not kill [Mrs Ormerod]

and my actions did not unethi-

cally nor callously lead to her

"I unequivocally state that

at no time did any nurses or

other persons disagree to my

face or in my hearing about

the way I was treating her."
He added: "I judged that

feeding was inappropriate

and believed that the time had

come to let her slip away.

When she did not die withir

Christina Atkinson, who

was matron at the time, said

she was "aghast" when, eight months before Mrs Ormerod's

death, Dr Taylor initially sug-gested the food be stopped. She opposed the idea and he

allowed her to carry on with

The hearing continues to-

days, I was perturbed."

He said crashing the Cessna was much more frightening than plung-ing into the Avon at Tewksbury and having to be rescued by divers. "I could see the trees rushing towards me. There was no way I could avoid them. I thought it was curtains.

"Most pilots go through their fly-ing careers without facing such an emergency. It's happened to me af-ter just 60 hours flying and when I was within two hours of qualifying." He reported the accident from a farmhouse and police took him to Shobdon airfield. He was collected

by another aircraft from the flying



Aish: crashed into a field and through a row of trees

school and took the controls on the flight back to Haverfordwest. He had been waiting since December for suitable weather for his cross-country solo flight, which involves navigating a triangular route with landings at two airfields, and plans to retake the test tomorrow.

deaths of 15 Jewish women By TIM JONES SWEEPING his arms from side to

side as though discharging a submachine gun, an elderly greyhaired man yesterday described how as a youth he hid in bushes and watched about 15 half- naked wom-

en being murdered. Fedor Zan, 76, told Britain's first war crimes trial he had been walking through the woods near the village of Domachevo, Belarus, when he heard the sounds of crying and shouting. As he crouched in his hiding place, he said, he saw Anthony Sawoniuk order the women to undress as he stood over them armed with a weapon.

When they were down to their underwear, he said, Mr Sawoniuk, whom he knew as Andrusha, ordered them to turn around and face

War crimes trial is told of

a pre-dug pit.
Mimicking the sounds of rapid fire, he added: "After they had turned, he immediately mowed them down with the machine gun and they fell into the pit. Once that had happened, I ran off."

Andrusha, he said, was on his own as he murdered the wailing women. "I recognised him by his size and his face. He was famous by that time. And it was light, the sun was still in the sky."

The mass execution, he said, took place a few days after the main massacre in the village in September 1942 when 2,900 men, women and children had been rounded up from the ghetto and herded to an area known as the sand hills where they were stripped and shot.

He said that Andrusha, who is alleged to have taken part in a search and kill operation to round up the Jews who escaped death on that day, was one of the first to join the local police force established by the Germans after they had occupied the village in 1941.

As Mr Zan gave his evidence through an interpreter. Mr Sawon-iuk, 78, gave no indication he had ever known him. Mr Sawoniuk, a refired British Rail ticket collector from South London, denies four charges of murder. The trial, at the Old Bailey, continues.

The jury was reduced to 11 members yesterday, after a woman juror fell ill and was taken to hospital.

Fundraiser is sacked in dispute over cathedral restaurant

BY RUTH GLEDHUL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE head of visitor services at Salisbury Cathedral has been sacked for "gross misconduct" in a dispute about fundraising plans.
Barry Mason, who successfully

boosted income from visitors by £350,000 - 40 per cent - in 12 months, is appealing to the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev David Stan-

cliffe, the cathedral visitor, to overrule the dismissal.

Mr Mason, 49, who joined the cathedral a year ago, was sacked after he defied orders from the Dean and Chapter to keep plans for an expansion of the cathedral restaurant a closely guarded secret. He discussed the proposals informally:

with architects and planners before a chapter meeting next week.

Mr Mason, who has previously

worked for the Tate, the National Portrait Gallery and the Museum of London, had aroused earlier criticism from some of the cathedral bierarchy by introducing an alcohol licence to the restaurant.

The Plummery, a temporary structure on the south side of the cathedral, currently seats 30 people and there are sometimes queues when the cashedral, which attracts 700,000 visitors a year, is busy. Un-

der the refurbishment plans there would be seating for 240. Mr Watson admitted last night

that he was aware that he had broken an edict from the Dean, the Very Rev Derek Watson, and the Chapter to keep the plans confidential. But he claimed he had been motivated by enthusiasm and was dumbfounded by the response. "I thought gross misconduct meant stealing, or an assault, or a sexual

impropriety." he said. "I had no idea it could be used to get rid of someone on the grounds they were doing their job rather too well." As head of visitor services, Mr Mason helped to boost visitor in-

come from about £1 million to £1.4 million. Income from The Plummery accounts for about £30,000. Mr Mason recently offered plac-

es in the cathedral tower for a champagne breakfast to see the summer

solstice in June and a champagne brunch to witness the solar eclipse in August. He described the plans for the restaurant, by the architects Munchen, Beck and Marshall, as

A cathedral spokesman said of the dismissal: "The Chapter office is satisfied that all proper procedures were strictly adhered to both leading up to and during the disciplinary hearing."

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Bulger ruling may force court changes

BRITAIN could be forced to change the way it tries juveniles accused of serious crimes after the European Commission of Human Rights ruled yesterday that the boys convicted of murdering James Bulger were denied a fair trial.

The commission, based in Strasbourg, said that the way Robert Thompson and Jon Venables faced a full adult Crown Court meant they had been prevented from effectively participating in their trial. But it rejected claims that their trial amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment out-lawed by the European Convention on Human Rights.
Thompson and Venables,

both now aged 16. are to take their appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in a hearing expected later this year. The court has no power to overturn their convictions

Last night, as the Home Office said it would contest the ruling. James's mother. Denise Fergus, condemned the commission's decision and accused the boys of trying to get

The Home Office will contest Euro judges' view that boys were denied a fair trial, reports Richard Ford

increased by the then Lord

Chief Justice to ten years and

by Michael Howard, then the

Home Secretary, to 15 years.

Mr Howard was later de-

clared to have acted unlaw-

fully and the tariff was set

are currently detained in local

authority secure accommoda-tion in the North of England.

Later this year Jack Straw, the

away from their "vile and monline. The boys, both from Merstrous" crime on a legal technicality. She said: "They say they der at Preston Crown Court were unfairly treated - why and sentenced to be held at Her Majesty's pleasure.
The trial judge set a minimum tariff of eight years for "retribution and deterrence" didn't they stop the case when

it was going on, instead of wait-ing six years before they say it? "I don't think they were un-fairly treated in any way. They had top lawyers, workers, care workers; they had the best of everything. So how can they say they were unfairly treat-

Thompson and Venables were aged ten when they abducted James, who was two, from a shopping centre in Bootle on Merseyside in 1993. They battered him to death and left his body on a railway

"You won't

LINKS

www.discour.coo.fr The European Court of Human Rights's website carries the European Commission of Human Rights's report into the boys' cases

The commission ruled by 14 votes to five that the boys had not received a fair trial in 1993. "It considers that the public triprocess in an adult court with attendant publicity must be regarded in the case of an 11-year-old child as a severely infimidating procedure," the

ruling said.

It also upheld by 18 votes to one a complaint by the boys over the way in which their sentences had been increased by Mr Howard. It said his decision was a breach of their human rights because it had been taken by a politician and not an impartial tribunal. If the full European Court of

Human Rights backs the commission's rulings, the Government will be under pressure to change the way it tries and sen-tences juveniles convicted of murder, manslaughter, rape and other serious offences.

It could lead to juveniles charged with serious offences being tried in the more informal surroundings of the youth courts and to the Home Secre-



ussion said that the boys were denied a fair trial

tary no longer being able to set a minimum term to be served

Mr Straw said last night that the Government had no plans to alter the way juveniles charged with serious crimes

iffs — minimum terms — were set by ministers. Rex Makin, the solicitor for

James's father, Ralph, said: "How the Bulger family are ex-pected to understand this decision is beyond comprehen-

knife in the wound of the parents, who have no opportunity proceedings raised substantial issues which couldn't be con-

every time there are movements in this saga." John Dickinson, the Sheffield-based solicitor represent-

sidered in this country," he Roger Scruton, page 18

Rest of Europe relies on family hearings

BY FRANCES GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE trial of the two boys accused of murdering James Bulger prompted almost uni-versal criticism from countries where children are not tried in adult criminal courts. In continental Europe, children under the age of 14 are dealt with by family courts. The age of criminal respon-

sibility is also usually higher than in Britain, where it is ten. In France the age is 13; in Germany, Austria and Italy 14: in the Scandinavian countries 15; and in Spain and Portugal In eastern Europe it ranges

between 14 and 16. A report in 1996 by Paul Cavadino, now policy director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, urged a change in the way children who kill are dealt with. It found that, on average, 25 people a year un-Crown Courts. Mr Cavadino said of the Bulger trial: "Most foreign commentators were as-tonished that two 11-year-olds should be dealt with by a public, adult-style hearing in the

full glare of media coverage." Critics questioned at the time whether such young children were able to comprebend the complexities of a and trial; whether they should glare of media coverage of Crown Court proceedings. whether their decision not to give evidence arose from fear of speaking in such a public forum; and whether it was right to lift reporting restrictions af-

names and photographs to be widely publicised.

The British system of sentencing was also strikingly different from the rest of Europe. Mr Cavadino added. No offer European country has indeterminate sentences that are not judicially supervised. In France and The Netherlands, Such sentences are reviewed cithe judiciary, which can order the young person's conditional release

According to a report by Justice, the human rights group, maximum sentences on chil-dren for homicide are lower elsewhere. In Austria and Germany. 15 years can be imposed in exceptional circumstances and in Sweden 18 years. But in Spain there is a al and rehabilative pro-gramme for under-los and a maximum of 12 years for 16 to

Mr Cavadino said the age of responsibility should be raised to at least 14 and, below. that, children should be dealt

Formal rules were relaxed for boys' trial

> By Richard Ford HOME CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the youngest defendants in a murder case in England this century walked into the Preston Crown Court they were surrounded by the full grandeur of the English criminal law in action.

But the court authorities had made several concessions to the age of Jon Venables and Robert Thompson. A platform had been built in the dock to enable the trial judge to see the two ll-year-old, and extra chairs had been placed in the to sit next to each child.

Venables and Thompson, ten at the time of the murder and ll when brought to trial, had also been allowed to visit the High Edwardian-style courtroom previously in an attempt to make it less intimidating, and their lawyers and social workers had also prepared them for the trial by explaining court processes and would sit. Each day of the hearing began half an hour later



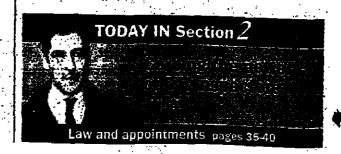
eased court conditions

minutes earlier. But the boys still had to walk the 24 steps from the cells to the dock. Mr Justice Morland, the trial judge, was fully wigged and in were also wigged and in tradi-tional black gowns. The bench was situated so

that the judge sat directly fac-ing the dock in the middle of the court. To the right of the dock sat the parents, who were close enough to touch at least one of the childen. On the other side of the court, seats had been reserved for James Bulg-

er's parents.

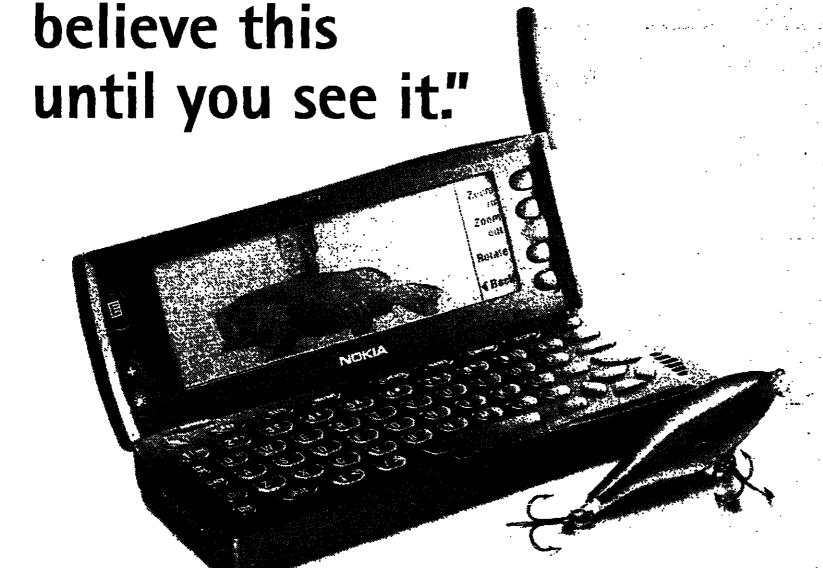
If the boys had been dealt with at a youth court, the procedures would have been more informal and the public. though not the media, would have been banned from attending. The boys would probably not have sat in a dock but in the well of the court behind their lawyers, with their par-ents beside or behind them, and the lawyers would have not have worn wigs or gowns. with in a family proceedings. A magistrate would have ex-count. For older children, hear-ings should be in private, be-fore a specially trained judge. been regular breaks.



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Briton 'shocked' to find he had awarded draw, reports Adam Sherwin

THE British judge who awarded the draw that denied Lennox Lewis the undisputed world heavyweight boxing title said yesterday that he had made an "honest mistake".

Larry O'Connell said he felt that Lewis had beaten Evander Holyfield on points in New York, and that he had been shocked to be told that his scorecard added up to a

He admitted that his scorecard did not accurately represent his analysis of the fight. "It was marginal but I felt that Lewis had won with his jab alone. It was as much a surprise to me as anyone else to be told that my own card showed a draw. My heart sank," Mr O'Connell said. The American judge gave the fight to Holyfield: the other judge. from South Africa, had Lewis as clear winner.

Mr O'Connell handed in his score for the rounds at the conclusion of each one. He did not keep a running total because he believed that would be "un-

ethical", hindering an objective analysis of each round. Mr O'Connell, an engraver from Hartley, Kent, who has officiated at boxing bouts for 23 years, apologised to the British boxer for denying him the title that he had coveted for so long. "I feel very sorry for Lennox and for all the fans who

paid money to see the fight."

Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, who had said that the decision was "very damaging" to boxing. "To hell with Tony Banks. I think they gave him the job to keep him quiet," Mr O'Connell said.

Awarding a draw was not in his nature, he added. "People think you are sitting on the

• I feel very sorry for Lennox and for all the fans who paid money to see the fight?

The 60-year-old grandfather was visibly upset that his actions had brought the wrath of the sporting world on his head. "What is killing me is that I am British and we had a chance of getting an undisput-ed British world heavyweight champion. But I have to do the job as I see it." He had strong words for

feel that you should be man enough to give a decision, but I did give a draw."

Mr O'Connell said that there had been no attempt by Don King, the flamboyant fight promoter who stands to make millions of dollars from a rematch, to influence his scoring. "I did not speak to Mr King throughout the time I

was in New York," he said. "I am a man of integrity and I do not belong to anybody or any promoter. If they don't like it. they can stuff it."

The judge, who was a boxer for 12 years, questioned Lewis's cautious factics during the fight, which he said had made it harder to award rounds to him. "Lennox waited too long to exploit opportunities that his left jab had

There was one round where Holyfield didn't know where the next punch was coming from. But Lennox stood back and let Holyfield throw the next punch."

Mr O'Connell did not score rounds strictly according to the number of punches that connected the statistics that have been widely quoted to prove Lewis's superiority. "I look for 'effective aggression'
- which fighter is hitting harder. There are no hard and fast rules to judging," he said.

Lewis's task, page 52



Larry O'Connell, outside his home yesterday, said he had to do the job as he saw it

New York may hold criminal inquiry

FROM JAMES BONL IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK authorities have begun investigating the Lewis-Holyfield draw. Eliot Spitzer. the New York State Attorney General, was said to be deciding whether the facts merited a criminal investigation.

Mr Spitzer's spokesman said: "He has reached no determination yet, but he is concerned by the public impression that there was something flawed about the match." Mr Spitzer chairs a national task force of state attorneys-general that is investigating boxing, and last month held three days of hearings in the city on the poor state of the sport.

George Pataki, the New York Governor, called on the New York State Athletic Commission, which regulates the sport, to "take a hard look" at

the judging. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. a sports fan. said: "This is a travesty and it will hurt boxing." He feared that Britons at the fight would think New Yorkers were "a bunch of cheats".

Ahern the poet takes Ireland by surprise

IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BERTIE AHERN, the Irish Prime Minister, was revealed last night as a talented poet with the publication of a new collection of work by Irish writers, artists, politicians and pop stars.

Mr Ahem penned a poem entitled Whoseday Is It Today? for a diary aimed at raising £4 million for the Irish Hospice Foundation. The quality of the 15-line poem has surprised literary critics, who were impressed by his grasp of language.

Eilean Ni Chuilleanain. head of English at Trinity College. Dublin, said that Mr Ahern displayed "great energy and thoughtfulness". Brian Cosgrove, head of English at Maynooth University, said he was "delighted to know we aware of the world of the im-

WHOSEDAY IS IT TODAY?

Whoseday is it today? to cry arrive, or slip away then to dark, Each one to make their presence felt

Deep in the ancient spring of Irishness

Great talents soin and bubble to the too in giant of ey, in tart-tang tongue

To sing what we hold dear, Celebrate from year to year.

On old Stvx way Penny-bridge for your

From shadowland to light and

New ship upon the bay, new

Whose day is it today? BERTIE AHERN



Mr Ahern's work won the praise of experts

agination as well as the world of politics".

Mr Ahem's poem is one of 366 pieces of poetry, prose and artwork contributed to The Whoseday Book Bono. the lead singer of U2. compares being born to the bright lights and adrenalin rush of a sta appearance, and Bob Geldof submitted a poem with the postscript "Will this do?". Christy Moore, the folk singer, contributed a poem about Veronica Guerin, the mur-

arguing parents. In addition to works by the from Ulster politicians. John Hume, the SDLP leader, re-"unity in diversity", while Ger-

The linen-bound book was the brainchild of John Waters, an Irish Times columnist. It goes on sale in Ireland to-

dered journalist, and Marianne Faithfuli a poem about writers Iris Murdoch. Maeve Binchy and Roddy Doyle there are also contributions printed his 1979 speech on ry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, describes a hurling match.

day and will be presented to President Clinton in Washington tomorrow. Organisers hope to sell 150,000 copies in the US and 50,000 in Ireland. Sales in Britain have yet to be

Sex taunts 'drove out lesbian'

By CHRISTINE MIDDAP

A LESBIAN teacher was driven out of her job by six years of abuse and teasing from students about her sexuality, an employment tribunal was told

Shirley Pearce, 51, said that (1) she was told by the head to "grit my teeth and face it" after she complained, and that the abuse continued until she re-tired through ill-health. Ms Pearce, who taught sci-

ence at Mayfield Secondary School in Portsmouth for more than 20 years, is claiming sexual discrimination against the governors. She says that they did not take effective action to stop the abuse.

"It was as if their attitude was almost, well, you are a lesbian, you should expect these comments," she said at the hearing in Southampton.

The tribunal was told that one boy, who had suggested that lesbians should be prosecuted, apologised after he was spoken to by the deputy head. Another pupil was suspended after cut food was left in Ms Pearce's jacket pocket. The hearing continues.

Teacher is jailed for pub brawl

By Russell Jenkins

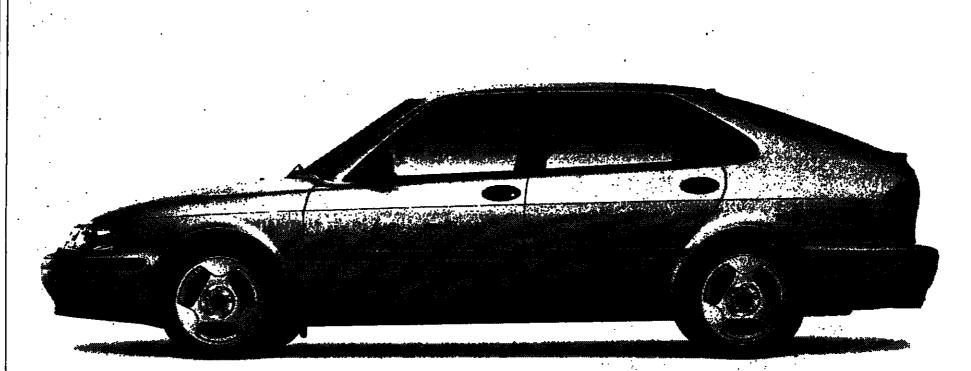
A TEACHER praised in a recent Ofsted report was jailed for 12 months by Liverpool Crown Court yesterday for causing a drunken brawl in which a friend lost an eye.

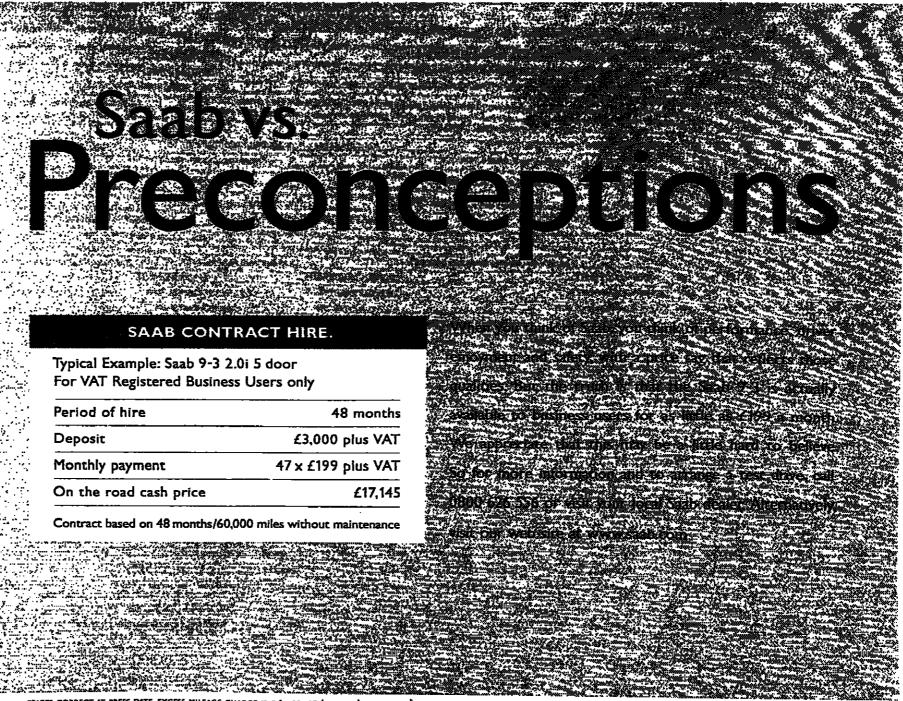
An argument had crupted over football while he and two friends were watching a tele-vised match in a pub.

Jonathan Rice, 29, who teaches business studies, was described in court as a magnificent teacher who commanded the support of his colleagues at All Saints Roman Catholic High School in Kirkby, Merseyside. A petition in his favour was signed by 800 pupils.

But Judge David Maddison told Rice that the offences, involving a premeditated and protracted attack on two men in a public place, were so serious that there was no alternative to a custodial sentence.

Rice. of Upton, Wirral, struck Andrew Ellis, 33, with such force that Mr Ellis's right eye had to be removed. Rice, with no previous convictions. denied inflicting grievous bodily harm to Mr. Ellis and assaulting Christopher Kelly, 32.





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I just go where I'm told, says Prescott

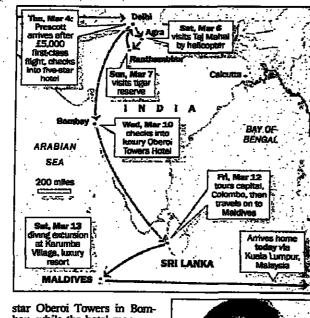
JOHN PRESCOTT returns to his ministerial desk today after completing his gruelling official visit to India and the Maldive Islands. The Deputy Prime Minister will not have much time for his travel memo-

ries to lade before his next trip. Wetsuits will make way for the bright lights in New York next month when Mr Prescott leads Britain's delegation at the Sixth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, an II-day environmen-tal summit held at the United Nations. Officials at the Department of the Environment. Fransport and the Regions say that the 11-day trip around the Indian Ocean furnished their

dazzle the UN gathering. The "high-level" Indian trip

also gave Mr Prescott a taste of the high life which might cause some unease among old Hull comrades. It included fly-ing first-class, visiting the Taj Mahal, stalking tigers and div-ing for coral. While his ministe-rial colleagues wrestled with transport tax rises in the Budget, the transport supremo was being driven around New Delhi in the High Commissioner's

gas-guzzling Rolls-Royce. The visit cost British taxpayers £55,000, but there were and businessmen who accompanied Mr Prescott settled for £173-a-night rooms at the five-



bay, while the hotel manager found a complimentary up-grade for Mr Prescott to the £1,358-a-night "presidential" suite. The Indian Ministry of Defence found a private jet to take him to the Taj Mahal, the "white marble splendour" of which will stay with Mr Pres-

The purpose behind the excursion was for Mr Prescott and his business guests to discuss policies for dealing with air pollution and greenhousegas emissions and assisting in the building of India's infra-structure. Eight Indian miniswere ushered into the Prescott presence · "to cement rela-



We have much in common ciently flexible to add a trip to the Ranthambore reserve to and much to learn from each other." He dismissed accusations that he was living it up at see the Bengal tigers, a beast much lauded by Mr Prescott: the taxpayers' expense. He said: "Do you mean us work-

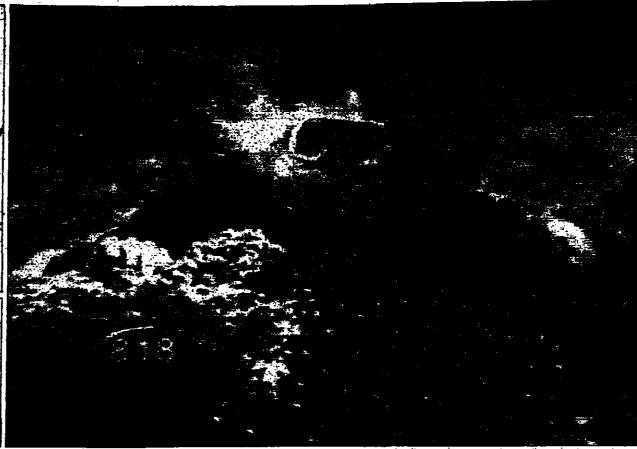
expect such things? I go where ".blot m'1

Mr Prescott remained buoy-ant while diving on a coral reef off the Maldives, when an illfitting facemask filled up with

diver, the Deputy Prime Minis-ter remained calm, cleared his mask and continued.

There were some policy announcements: a £10 million scheme to help people in rural

servation with money from Clare Short's Department for Yard to



Taking the plunge: Mr Prescott surfaces yesterday, left, after trouble with his face mask and, above, inspects the damaged coral reef tions, said the department. wards me out of the twilight. ing-class lads shouldn't really water. Being an experienced by paying for taxis to bus stops: £50,000 for tiger conser-vation; £300,000 for coral con-The work schedule was suffi-



By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

THE three Service chiefs issued a further warning to military personnel yesterday that anyone guilty of racist behav-iour could be discharged.

The decision by the heads of the Royal Navy, Army and RAF to send a signal to all commanders came after last week's disclosure that two soldiers had been questioned by police about suspected mem-bership of the neo-Nazi

group, Combat 18.

The chiefs said that "strict The chiefs said that "strict disciplinary procedures" would be used against anyone engaged "in the slightest form of racist behaviour".

The three chiefs, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, General Sir Roger Wheeler and Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, have already complet-

Johns, have already completed a race relations course which all officers above the rank of brigadier must now undergo. Yesterday, in their joint signal, they said that the necessary powers already ex-isted to deal with behaviour that was "incompatible with military service".

Such powers, they said, would be used to deal "with cases of membership of, support for, or association with groups or organisations whose purposes include incitement to racial hatred or violence". The warning is intend-ed to show that racial prejudice is now regarded as one of the gravest abuses of the military code.

The two soldiers, one of them from The Parachute Regiment, who were ques-tioned about Combat IS were released on bail. Fourteen homes were raided as part of the investigation.

help black officers rise to top

By STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SPURRED by the Stephen yesterdaý began a campaign to increase the number of senior officers from ethnic minority backgrounds to reflect the fact that a fifth of Londoners are black, Asian or Chinese.

A cadre of senior officers from those ethnic back-grounds would provide the base for top officers in London and chief constables in other forces. The most senior officer from an ethnic minority background in the country at the moment is Tarrique Ghaffur, an assistant chief constable in the Lancashire force.

In London there are 23 officers from ethnic minority backgrounds who are inspectors or above out of a total of 1,870 senior officers. They include four superintendents. There are no black or Asian officers in any higher ranks but one London officer has completed the naranks.

The strategy, devised by a team of police and lay advisers, including personnel ex-perts from British Telecom and British Airways, contains a scheme to help promising officers who reach the rank of inspector and above to develop their careers. It was concluded that with more than 860 black and Asian officers already serving there was a reservoir of talent to be developed.

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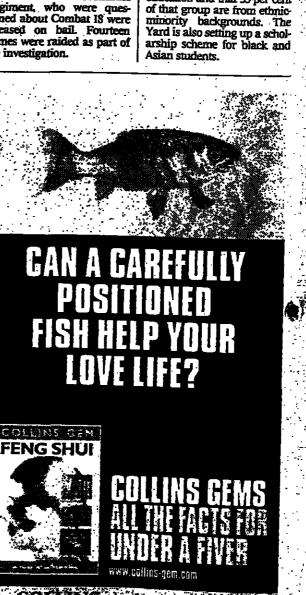
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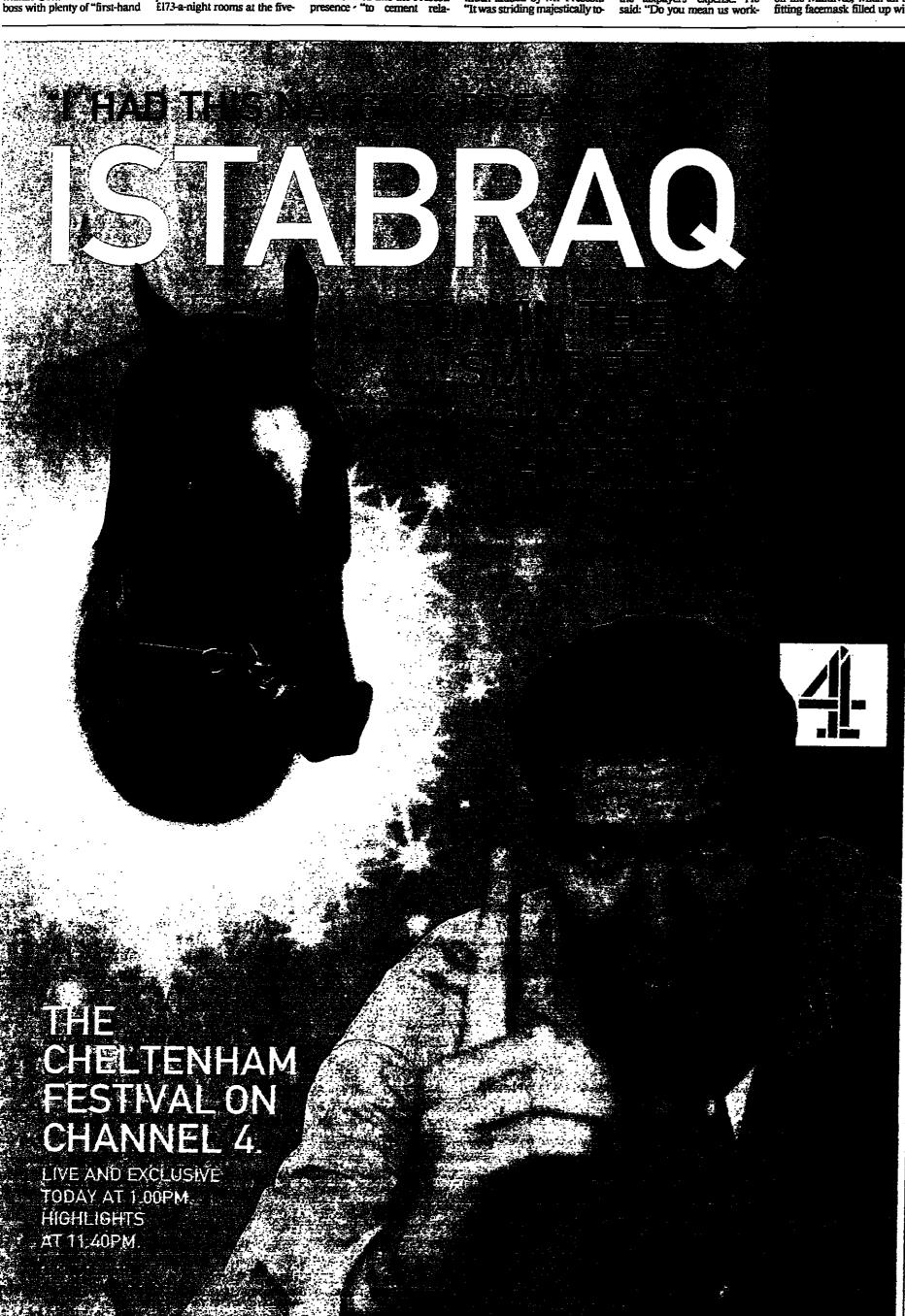
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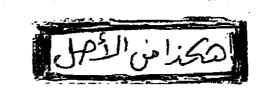
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At the same time it was noted that 30 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds now go into higher ducation and that 35 per cent of that group are from ethnicminority backgrounds. The Yard is also setting up a scholarship scheme for black and







child abuse uses cruelt to hit hom

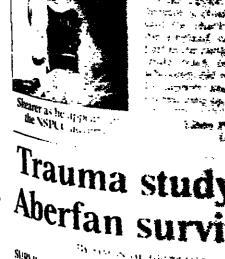
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Archaeologists lift lid on the great unknown

THE tomb of one of the richest and greatest of Roman Londoners began to reveal its se-crets yesterday after 1,800 years, but the indentity of the VIP remained unknown.

Archaeologists opened up a stone sarcophagus that was discovered in the City of London on Friday on a site destined to become an office complex. It contained a decorative lead coffin that was beyond their dreams.

Chris Thomas, an archaeologist from the Museum of London, said: "This is one of the most sensational finds I've come across." Before opening, the surface of the sarcophagus was scanned with a metaldetector. "It was going abso-lutely mad," said Simon Thurley, a director of the museum. "It might be lined with lead, which would suggest the highest status burial. Perhaps a Roman governor, governor of London or even the whole province. Someone extremely grand and very rich. This is in-

credibly exciting."
Using scaffolds to lever up the stone lid, several burly men slid it off the base to reveal a 6ft coffin not just lined with lead but made of lead. The team crouched down and peered. "Utterly extraordinary." said one. "This individual must have been very, very wealthy and very important." said another. "It's in amazing condition. It's not been disturbed. No wonder the detector gave such a strong signal."
The sarcophagus was discov-

9pm watershed, to avoid up-

The advertisements, known

are to be broadcast for the first

time tonight. Created by

Saatchi's, they are designed to

demonstrate that most cruelty

The England footballer

Alan Shearer, the Spice Girls

and other children's favour-

ites, such as Action Man and

Rupert Bear, are shown cover-

ing their eyes. In the background can be heard a mother

losing her temper with a baby, an angry father scream-

ing uncontrollably at a child.

a bewildered toddler crying

for help and a father sexually

abusing his daughter.
Jim Harding, the chief executive of the NSPCC, said that

to children occurs at home.

setting children.

Tomb of Roman

VIP reveals his status, but no name, date or

job, reports Dalya Alberge

ered as archaeologists were excavating 12ft beneath the sprawling clay and gravel site. which was a Roman cemetery outside the town walls, beside Bishopsgate. There are delicate rope-pattern lines on the edge and an inner panel on the lid. The top is covered in what looked like a thin layer of congealed mud: as it does not go beyond the inner panel, the archaeologists suggest it could be the remnants of flowers or branches offered to the dead.

The group tried to make out details beneath that layer, seeking out the slightest sign of an inscription. "A lottery win is a date, a name and a job title," said Dr Thurley. "But we'll settle for less." Inside, they expect that a skeleton could be surrounded by white powder, the remnants of a plaster and chalk mix that was used for disinfectant purposes, explained Bill White, a Museum of London osteo-archaeologist. The next stage is to lift and transport the entire sarcopha-

gus to a laboratory. Nearby graves are rectangu-

public complacency about

child cruelty. Too many peo-

ple refused to confront child

abuse when they suspected it

was going on, he said, be-

cause it was too painful to

deal with. There was also a

danger that the recent highly

publicised investigations into

abuse in children's homes in

past decades made people

wrongly suppose that it had

now been eradicated in

Child abuse ad

uses cruelty

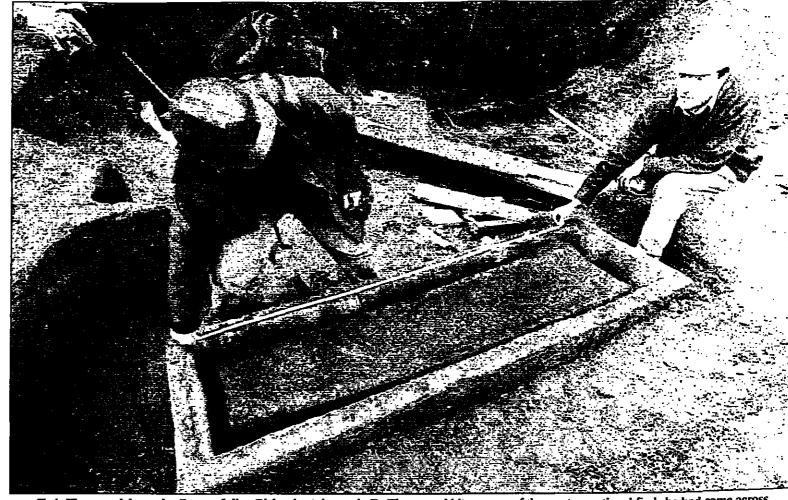
to hit home

By Alexandra Frean, social affairs correspondent

HARROWING television advertisements for the NSPCC are to be shown only after the designed to end widespread

tons have been taken away for study. As they date from AD 150 to 250, the coffin may bear a similar date. Ordinary people were buried in timber coffins or shrouds. The last find of a stone sarcophagus of any kind in Britain was about 30 years ago in Bow. Michael Bear, chief execu-

tive of the Spitalfields Development Group, on whose 12-acre site the sarcophagus was found, said that such discoveries added a certain romance to his world. Other excavations have unearthed plague pits and a medieval priory. Part of the site has been designated as Schedule Ancient Monument. Mr Bear is allowing the museum to create a temporary display in an old fruit and vegetable stall in the Spitalfields Market from mid-April.



Chris Thomas, right, and colleague Julian Richards at the tomb. Dr Thomas said it was one of the most sensational finds he had come across

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Graham Coe, MELTON MOWBRAY 01664

BAY 01702 588326 Terence Men Williams, HALSTEAD 01787 472209 Watts & Wood, BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH 01621 The prevailing culture is one of denial about what is happening. Only when we rec-782048 also HAROLD WOOD 01708 372303 also SHENFELD 01277 212978 GLOUCESTERSHIRE Dickson Bennett, CHELTENHAM SPA 01242 242220 S H & J ognise the reality of child abuse can we get on with L Poole, STROLD 01453 764753 R E
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CHANDLERS FORD 01703 252428 also
HEDGE END 01489 788665 also bringing it to an end. It is an L Poole, STROUD 01453 764753 R E unacceptable stain on society and it is time we removed it." Mr Harding said. Shearer, who has two small

daughters, said he hoped the campaign would highlight the terrible abuse that many children suffered: "In the world of football, we take a huge interest in the potential of children and young people. The NSPCC's advertising will make people think about the right that children have to a happy and loving childhood."
Mike Taylor, the NSPCC's

director of children's services. said the charity had invited the England captain to take part in the campaign so that it could reach out to fathers, who often did not have access to support and information on bringing up children.

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Libby Purves, page 18 Shearer as he appears in

the NSPCC adverts

Trauma study on Aberfan survivors

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

SURVIVORS of the Aberfan part in a two-year study to investigate the long-term psychological effects that it has had

on their lives. In October 1960, 116 children and 28 adults died when tens of thousands of tons of coal waste slid down a hill on to the Pantglas Junior School in South Wales. Many of the 145 children who escaped are now in their late thirties and early forties and are still struggling to come to terms with

their survival. A team from Cardiff University College of Medicine, funded by the Welsh Office, expects traumas that have affected physical and mental health, ed- ic stress."

ucation, job prospects and relationships.
One of the team leaders,

Jane Scourfield, 35, said that the investigators would compare the experiences of the survivors with adults who attended other schools in the area: "Not a lot is known about posttraumatic stress disorder. Our aim is to come up with findings that will help to treat survivors of future disasters." Gaynor Minett, 41, who was

pulled from the ruins of the school, but lost her brother and sister, said: "Many of the survivors are still suffering emotionally from the disaster. I'm sure it would help all of us to find evidence of lingering to talk about it with people who understand post-traumat-

5-58792 J N Stocks, LEXE-STER 0116 5-547151 K & G Roskrow, MARKET HARBOROUGH 01858 452996 Peter Jackson Assoc, WASSTON MAGNA 0116 288 1121 Fibeam, MOUNTSORREL 0116 23/3402 LINCOLINSHINE Christine Pirrie, STAMFORD 01/80 753488 David Burghard, NETTLEHAM 01522 754821 David Haligate, BOSTON 01205 355395 David Haligate, BOSTON 01205 355395 Hilton, BOSTON 01205 355395 Stephen J Hewatt, LOUTH 01507 607276 LONDON A Haves & Son, ELTHAM 0181 850 4325 C W Davey & Son, BLACKHEATH 0181 852 4406 Coton & Hamblin,

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Test aims to stop Classics becoming ancient history

Bogus language is part of drive to

attract students with no Latin or Greek, writes Hannah Betts

A NEW generation of Oxford classicists is entering university without knowing any Latin or Greek. Instead, their aputude to learn the ancient languages is judged by their ability to make sense of an in-

vented language. Oxford's Classics Language Apritude Test is an hour-long examination designed to assess sixth-formers' capacity to learn Latin and Greek from scratch. The test introduces an imaginary language from which phrases such as ni sqes leredaf ("do not stand on the books") have to be translated into English from a set of simole rules. The test is taken by

question from 1997:

In this language there are two classes of nouns and two classes of verbs. In sentences, each member of each class of verbs and nouns behaves according to the same pattern as every other member of its class, but the pattern may vary from class to class.

One class of nours and one class of verts is characterised by the presence of a long vowel (\bar{a} \bar{e} \bar{i} \bar{o} \bar{o}) in some or all of its forms; the other class of each is characterised by the absence of a long vowel.

a, tetrőzor chüp-chas fila-chan.

c. sesnāzor chūp chas filat. d. sqensesor fila-cha mutar

 A farmer steps on a dog.
 A dog and a cow bite a dentist Some dentists take some cows
 A farmer sues some dentists. 5. A farmer takes a bite of bread

6. He hurts some teeth . Some dentists hurt a fai

Answers: 8-7; b-5; 0-3; d-1; 6-6; 1-4; g-2

the large numbers of would-he classicists whose schools no problem particularly acute in Those who do well join an

have them enjoying Homer and Virgil in the original with-

This week, the first intake begins revising for its final examinations in the classic tongues. The university is confident

pressive as those of students who took the more conventional academic route. But the course has attracted only a small number of applicants.

Ewen Bowie, admissions of-ficer in Classics, said: "The faculty is very proud of the pack-age, so we are slightly disappointed that applications are not moving forward faster." This year there were 20 ap-

plicants and 11 places were awarded, although twice as many students could have been accommodated. State schools were well represented in the final intake. Three out of four candidates from comprehensive schools were successful, as were all three grammar school applicants.
Dr Bowie believes several

factors may explain slow uptake of the course, ranging from sixth-formers finding Oxford's image intimidating to ig-norance that the course exists. On the evidence of examina-

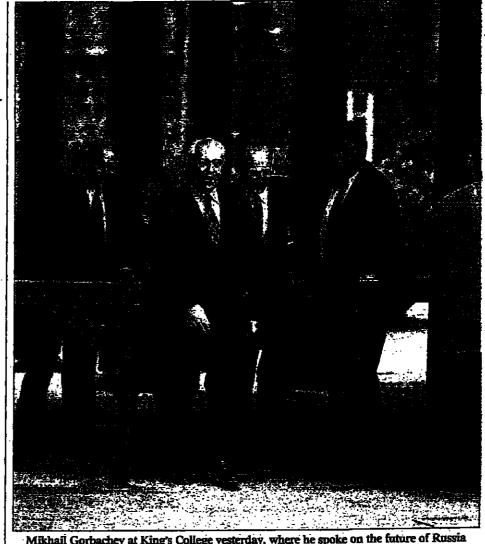
tion results, there is a large pool of potential students. In recent years, some 6,500 pu-

and fewer than 300 took Greek. Most opted for classical civilisation courses, where the texts are studied largely in translation.

Peter Parsons, Regius Pro-fessor of Greek, argues that fewer students with knowledge of Latin and Greek means fewer teachers to spread the word that these languages are the best gateway to the ancient world.

"We have a humane belief in what we're doing and that we've found the best way of do-ing it," he said. "It would be entirely wrong to take an ivory tower attitude and let the subject dwindle under the de-mands of the modern world. The task that lies ahead now is to convince young people that we can help them to read themselves inside the skin of two re-markable civilisations."

LINKS cs home page of the Faculty of



Dissident attacks Gorbachev visit

By A CORRESPONDENT

VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY, the Russian dissident who studied Soviet Union for his political views, criticised his alma mater yesterday for playing host to the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Mr Bukovsky wrote to the

college in protest, saying that Mr Gorbachev's leadership had presided over massacres of civilians and deliberately instigated ethnic conflicts in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

"It is a personal insult for me to see Gorbachev staying overnight in my college (like it

would have been insulting for Jew to see a known Nazi invit-Bukovsky wrote. He said that the college's reputation would be "smeared" by "co-operation with mass murderers". Mr Gorbachev addressed a

college symposium yesterday on the future of Russia, organised by the Gorbachev Foundation and the King's College Research Centre. He was scheduled to stay overnight at lecture in Cambridge today.

No one from King's was

How children learn to hate the Germans

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

pro-British as they grow older. according to psychologists.

Adam Rutland, of Aberdeen University, found that, until the age of ten, children do not bother about nationality. But as they become teenagers, they begin to be proud of being Brit-

ish and to dislike Germans. For the research, 329 white, middle and lower-class children in southern England were divided into six age groups between six and 16. Each group was shown photographs of seven white men. and seven white women and asked to say whether they liked or disliked the faces. The test showed that none of the children liked or disliked some of the people in the photo-

graphs more than others. Two weeks later, the children were shown the pictures again. This time they were told that the people in the photographs were either British, German, American, Russian or Australian.

Among the children aged six to ten there was no evidence of national prejudice against those described as Germans. From the age of 12 onwards, however, prejudices began to emerge and, among the tal punishment ar 14-year-olds, the evaluation of not lost any wars."

BRITISH children become in- the "German" photographs was clearly negative.

After the picture test each child was asked a number of their opinions of other nationalities. Among the younger children, the most important thing about being British was that they could speak English and had friends and families living nearby. The younger children also said they liked the "beautiful countryside" or "nice weather". They did not

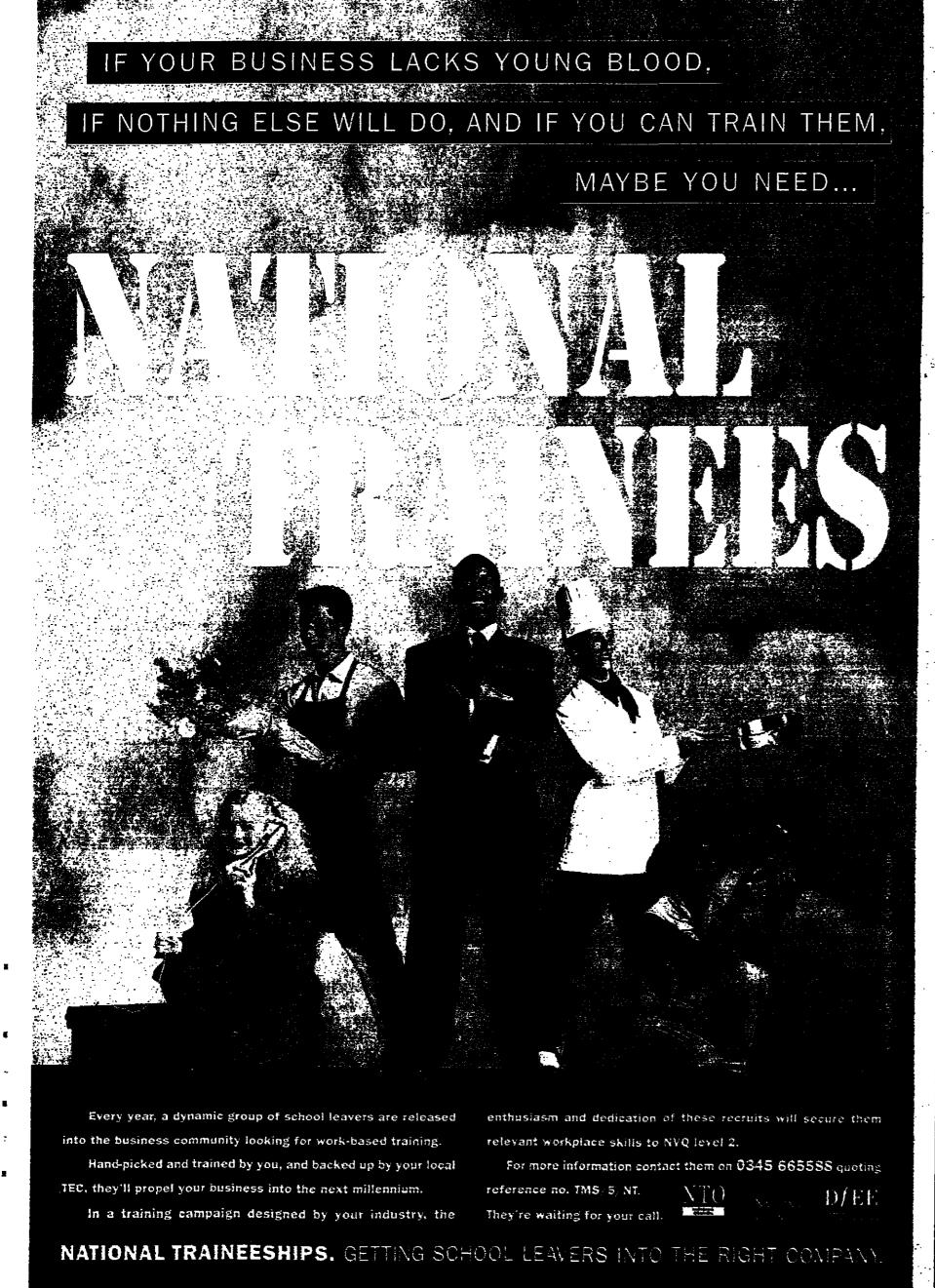
make any social comment. By the time they were ten, however, chauvinism began to army in the world thanks to Oliver Cromwell. We beat Germany in World War Two," one ten-year-old said.

A 12-year-old was proud that we had the Empire and we have a monarchy and not many countries have them". A 14-year-old said: "We are more civilised and friendly compared to the French and Ger-

A 16-year-old thought "the food here is better compared to other places". Another in this age group said: "We are different from other countries. For example, we do not have capital punishment and we have

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Second inquiry to unravel maritime mystery

CH 16 1994

By Frances GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH COURT judge will open a second inquiry today into the loss of the MV Derbyshire with 44 lives. The sinking of the four-year-old ship in 1980 is one of the mysteries of maritime history, and has reconstructed. maritime history, and has confounded experts.

The inquiry, announced last year by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is unprece-dented. Mr Justice Colman, a commercial court judge, will chair what amounts to a rehearing of the first moury with the aim of establishing why the ship went down in the South China Sea.

The judge, who has experi-ence of shipping disputes, will study more than 135,000 photographs and 200 hours of video film from the £2 million investigation of the wreck in 1997. In 1981 Lord Trefgarne, Min-ister for Trade at the time, de-cided that a formal investiga-

tion into the sinking was impracticable because of the lack of "any material evidence ... no ship, no survivors, nor any wreckage". But an inquiry was ordered after the Kowloon. Bridge, one of the Derbyshire's five sister ships, went down in 1986. Four years earlier another sister ship, the Tyne Bridge, suffered a crack in the deck in bad weather and had

to be towed to safety. The first inquiry, conducted by Gerald Darling, QC, reported in 1989 that the ship "was probably overwhelmed by the forces of nature in Typhoon Outlid" off Okingue Release Orchid off Okinawa Relatives of the dead, trades unions and shipping experts have maintained however, that the Derbyshire and other bulk car-

riers like it had design faults.
In 1995 the Government asked Lord Donaldson of Lymington, former Master of the Rolls, to report on the feasibility of a further inquiry. He conty of a further inquiry. He con-cluded that the £2 million survey of the wreck site was justified in view of the potential

benefits to ship safety. The survey report concluded.



The Prince on Sea Lion Island, home to large colonies of penguins, elephant seals, sea lions, and just two humans — a former Yorkshireman and his wife who run a tourist lodge

At peace among the penguins

WHEN one has upset the Argeninians and been lauded to the skies by the Falkland Islanders, it provides a moment of relief to be able to talk to the penguins. One is assured of a large and attentive audience.

The Prince of Wales, on his official visit to the South Atlantic, briefly escaped the politics of sovereignty during a tour of Sea Lion Island, the most southerly inhabited of the Falklands, with a resident popula-tion of 40,000 penguins, 3,500 sea lions, 50 bull elephant seals, a Yorkshireman and his

By chance, the only other tourist at the Falklands' premier wildlife location during the visit was Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby, a nephew of the late naturalist Sir Peter Scott. "This is absolutely marvel-lous," Mr Talbot-Ponsonby enthused. "I've always had a great interest in the Falklands, and it's uplifting to be here."

The Prince was equally in-trigued. With shepherd's

Alan Hamilton on the Prince's brief escape from Falklands politics move on dry land at anything faster than a waddle, insists

inland to find a nesting site. Sea Lion Island is home to an even greater number of magellanic penguins, known to the locals as jackasses, from their habit of braying like donkeys at dusk. It is an equally odd creature, being one of the very few penguins to tunnel a burrow for a nest. Not for them all that standing about on the ice balancing an egg on

on walking as far as possible

On a cement-grey beach, the Prince looked at a large number of huge motionless brown boulders. As he watched, one boulder raised a flipper and dusted itself with sand to keep cool. The Prince was advised to keep his distance; not only have southern bull elephant seals been known to bite sizeable chunks out of unwary tourists' bot-



A Falklands elephant seal: the breath is said to be deadly

to get closer than is good for them. A team of Italian researchers has been on Sea Lion Island trying to weigh the seals, which can exceed four tonnes. Their sophisticated scientific method is to lure the

one seal let out a loud noise, a cross between a roar and a bad bout of flatulence. "Why don't you pat him, sir," a pho-tographer called. "Oh yes, I suppose you'd like that, thank you very much," the Prince

Lion Island are David and Patricia Gray, who emigrated to

pure organic produce. The Prince whose pro-Yorkshire 25 years ago, and moved to the island after a spell of farming at Goose

lage hall during the Argentine occupation. The island, once home to 1.600 sheep, is now a conservation area, and the Grays have built a small tourist lodge from which visitors can see 47 species of nesting birds, and killer whales cruising off-

Green, which included incar-

ceration for 29 days in the vil-

Tourism is still in its infancy in the Falklands, with only about 300 staying visitors a year, plus another 20,000 who come ashore on day excursions from cruise liners.

Yesterday the Prince toured research projects at the Falklands Department of Agriculture, where experts from Britain and Australia are trying to improve the islands' traditionally poor pasture to increase

diet was once elderly mutton. hope eventually to establish a

niche in world markets for

gramme had earlier been disrupted by bad weather, also visited the British War Cemetery at San Carlos, where 15 servicemen are buried, and the memorial to the Welsh Guards, of which he is Colonel-in-Chief, at Fitzroy, near the scene of the disastrous bombing of two landing craft at the height of the 1982

His visit to the Falklands has proved outstandingly popular with the 2,200 islanders. the great majority of whom were able to see him at Stanley, Goose Green or Fox Bay in West Falkland. His surprisingly direct reference to the sovereignty question dur-ing a speech in Buenos Aires served to double his welcome in the islands, and to reassure the population of Britain's continuing commitment towards

Lewis Clifton, a member of Prince Charles with the clear message that, for our next roy-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Life for killer on the bus

Martin Gibbs, 46, from Kennington, South London, was jailed for life at the Old Bailey for stabbing to death a man who had politely remonstrat-ed with him for throwing a bottle from a bus near Vaux-

hall Bridge. Herbie Williams, 56, a retired London Transport mechanic, who was on his way home from prayers at West minster Cathedral, had left the bus after Gibbs became bellig-erent, but Gibbs followed him and plunged a 12-inch knife into his chest. Gibbs had 20 previous convictions.

Lawrence attack

A care worker was given 200 hours' community service at Southwark for kneeing a constable in the face at the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. Rasaki Yesufu-Muhammad, 29, from Northolt, is a mem-ber of the Nation of Islam.

Robbery appeal

Bill "Mad Dog" Hickson, 54, and John "Chainsaw Woody" Woodruff, 60, were given leave to appeal against their convictions in 1997 for robbing an East London post office. They claim that police planted a gun during their arrest.

Murder hunt

Detectives are hunting a mug-ger who fatally injured an elderly man during an attack on the doorstep of his home. John Fiddian, 91, died in hospital on Saturday, two days after the attack in Handsworth Wood, Birmingham.

TV writer dies

The television comedy writer Sid Green, who worked for Morecambe and Wise and many others, has died aged 71. He and his partner, the late Dick Hills, had their own series, That Show and Those Two Fellers, in the 1960s.

Off her trolley

Firemen used bolt cutters to free Olivia Groves, aged 20 months, when she became shopping with her parents at a Tesco store in Eastbourne.

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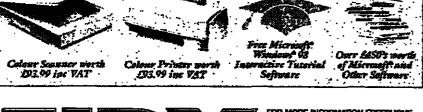
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william HAGUE has done something sensible. He has stopped digging himself further into a hole on Europe. His real challenge as leader has been less policy than management — whether his party becomes an exclusive sect or whether dissent is tolerated.

If Mr Hague learned anything on his recent American trip, it should have been the dangers of defining a party by a single issue. A major reason why the Republicans lost the last two presidential elections was that they appeared intolerant on moral issues as the voice of the Religious Right. Abortion has been the litmus test for many Republican activists, particularly those who vote in primary elections. But such absolutism has repelled

many women voters.
However, even in the pre-liminary skirmishing for the 2000 campaign, some possi-ble Republican runners have signalled a more tolerant attitude. George W. Bush Jr, the

A SMALL carton of UHT milk

- possibly sponsored - took centre stage in the race to be-

come London's mayor yester-day as Lord Archer of Weston-

super-Mare vowed to give back what Margaret Thatcher

Lord Archer said he would

give a daily free carton of milk

to the capital's 500,000 prima-

ry schoolchildren. However,

rather than simply restoring what Mrs Thatcher removed

as Education Secretary in the

early 1970s, Lord Archer went

one better, offering a healthy breakfast bar and fruit juice

In what was immediately

dubbed a "muesli offensive",

Lord Archer said the case for

free school milk was over-

whelming. Research showed

that poor nutrition affected

schoolwork, he said, and that

children who arrived without

having had a proper breakfast tended to be disruptive.

Lord Archer put the annual cost at £30 million, although

he has started talks with super-

markets and cereal producers in the hope of striking a spon-

It was part of an overtly pop-ulist platform, which included

the promise to give his £100,000 mayoral salary to charities for the homeless. His

A hole in the road tax. Gas.

electricity and other utilities would be charged to dig up

Cleaner cars. Heavy fines levied by the boroughs on cars

with exhaust furnes which break the legal limit, but no

A commissioner for dirt to

clean up the capital and over-

see a mayor-led anti-litter carn-

paign. Courts would be en-

couraged to sentence offenders

to serve on gangs of litter re-

NEWS IN BRIEF

£80m to get

patients

off trolleys

ward. Patients would stay in

admissions ward beds until a

The Conservatives' "Listening

to Britain's churches" exercise

has shown that churchgoers

want the Tories to become a

party of biblical values and

virtues rather than one ob-

sessed with economic issues. Pleas for a return to tradition-

al values were among the early results of the consultation.

Fuel tax 'failure'

John Prescott was accused of

failing to secure any increases

in transport spending despite

a £2 billion rise in motoring taxes to £33 billion a year. Gillian Shephard, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said the Budget fuel tax rises had hit many vulnerable people who depended on their cars.

movers and graffiti busters.

London's roads.

congestion charges

for non milk-drinkers.

had once taken away.

Why the Tories agreed to differ on Europe

Texas Governor, has said that, while he is against abortion rights, he does not favour a constitutional ban because there is no consensus on it. George Pataki, the New York Governor and possible vicepresidential nominee, has similarly argued that "a plank that says we all have to believe or act one way or the other is inappropriate".

The Tories are in a parallel predicament. At times, the leadership has seemed to want to make Europe a defin-ing and excluding issue. There have even been mutterkind's phrase, about pushing

■ Commuter services: a new

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Buses to the City and the West End would run every three minutes. Routes would start well outside London with park

and ride stations at each one.

■ A £32 million a year hand-

out to London boroughs to

spur more voluntary work by

charities and others, at least

Mayor's question time.

Lord Archer would answer

questions twice a month, alter-

nating between radio phone-

Ken Livingstone, one of the

two other declared candidates,

accused Lord Archer of bor-

former leader of the GLC and

Labour MP for Brent East cit-

ed the bus links and his Tory

rival's emphasis on social ex-clusion, with particular help

Leading article, page 19

for the elderly and homeless.

ins and public meetings.

help the elderly.

Archer sets

out to milk

popular vote

for mayor

months ago. That would risk limiting the party's appeal.

This is not about modifying the party's policy. Ever since Mr Hague became leader, there has never been any doubt that the Tories would oppose joining the single cur-rency at the next election. That is the overwhelming view of Tory members, MPs and the Shadow Cabinet. This is why talk of Kenneth Clarke

ently implausible in current circumstances, even though he is by far the best qualified

The Tories have to live with their current policy until ei-ther they win the next election, and entry is ruled out for a decade or more, or they lose, and a re-elected Blair Government holds, and wins, a referendum on entry. In this case, the Tories will have to shift in a pro-European direction. But the Tories cannot win an elec-tion if they suffer the hugely damaging split involved in driving out pro-Europeans

Of course, some committed pros. notably John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly, have left to set up their Pro-Europe-an party. But the big names. Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, David Curry and Ian Taylor, have said they have no intention of leaving the Tory party or of supporting the Stevens/Donnelly group. Moreover, Mr Clarke and Mr public backing from the new cross-party Britain in Europe campaign until after the Euro-

That is the basis for an agreement to differ, as Mr Hague has recognised. He has referred to to "a broad church" with people "not hav-ing to agree to 100 per cent of the policies" and not wanting to see MPs driven out of the party. The key requirement is not supporting any group putting up candidates against the Tories and, a greyer area, not rocking the boat during election periods. But such a concordat also means that the leadership does not harden its



Hague: criticised cynical attitude to press freedom

Hague in attack on 'Stalinist' Blair

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

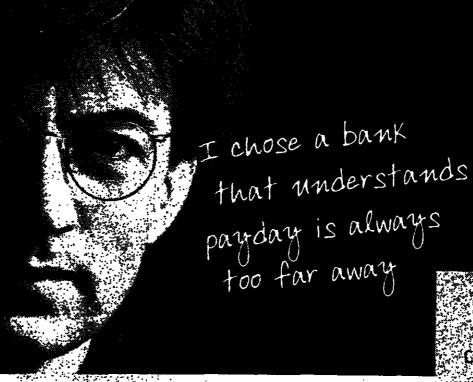
WILLIAM HAGUE yester day called the Prime Minister an "old-style Stalinist" as he attacked Downing Street's "patronising, hypo-critical and cynical attitude" to press freedom.

The Tory leader told the London Press Club that Tony Blair was "ruthlessly infolerant of debate, scrutiny or argument. "He seems to expect uncritical acceptance of everything he does, no matter how misguided or wrong-headed his actions."

Mr Hague said that Mr Blair and Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, had in recent weeks "vowed to bypass national political corresponddirect to the apparently less demanding audience on regional newspapers, women's magazines and the ethnic mi-

nority press."
Mr Hague said there was a more sinister side. "Blair and Campbell know that they cannot operate without continuing to brief the parliamentary lobby. But they also hope that by threatening to exile its more independentminded members, they might be able to buily the rest of the pack into toeing the line."

Michael Gove, page 18



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An extra £80 million is to be spent on upgrading hospital casualty departments to ensure that patients are no longer left lying on trolleys in corri dors, Frank Dobson told MPs. The Health Secretary said that the money, from the Treasury's Capital Modernisation Fund, would ensure that all but five of the 202 accident and emergency departments had a separate admissions

place was allocated in a spe-cialist ward. SAVE OVER E78 WHEN USING A £200 CIVERDENFT FOR A YEAR Biblical politics

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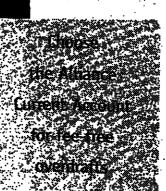
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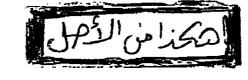
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China warns West to shun dissidents

CHINA, displaying an un-yielding stance on human rights, warned Western gov-ernments not to support Chinese dissidents living in exile.

The warning yesterday by Zhu Rongji, the Prime Minister, comes as the tenth anniversary of the killing of pro-democracy supporters in Tiananmen Square draws near and as he prepares to embark on a controversial visit to the United States next month. There is also concern as the US and the European Union consider whether to table a resolution critical of Beijing's record at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva later this month.

Speaking at the end of the annual session of the National People's Congress, China's nominal parliament, Mr Zhu said: "Don't support these elements of the democracy movement. After you let those people return to China, there will be no legal system and no democracy. It is not what you think it will be." The Prime Minister was ap-

Diplomats dismayed after Beijing brands political exiles a threat to

parently referring to China's best-known dissidents, Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan. The two were forced into exile in America after serving prison terms in Beijing.
At the press conference, Mr

Zhu also recalled his recent meeting with Madeleine Al-bright, the US Secretary of State, during which he described his own part in China's history as a struggle for human rights. "I told her, I am ten years older than you. When I took part in the movement for democracy, freedom and human rights against the [Nationalist] Kuomintang, you were still in junior high school." Diplomats said his remarks would disappoint those who felt that "constructive engagement" would influence China on human rights.

Mr Zhu, 70, spoke on a

democracy, James Pringle reports range of subjects during this once a year opportunity for reporters to quiz Chinese leaders. He was dismissive of US charges that China had stolen nuclear secrets from the Los Alamos laboratories in New Mexico. "The so-called prob-

> is like a tale from the Arabian Nights," he said. The Prime Minister said Sino-US relations had been damaged by an internal strug-gle in America but he hoped for a "warm handshake" from President Clinton to reflect "quite good relations". He also derided reports that China had positioned 600 missiles aimed at Taiwan and warned Washington against proceeding with a Theatre Missile Defence (IMD) plan for Asia.
> "We are against TMD." Mr

lem of China stealing military secrets from the United States

Zhu said. "We are especially firm in our opposition to including Taiwan under TMD. Our missiles are absolutely not aimed at our brothers and sisters in Taiwan, and we would not easily use these missiles," he said.

Mr Zhu said Washington had overestimated the nuclear threat posed by North Korea, but seemed to dismiss US sug-gestions that China could press Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programme. "How can we interfere [in] an inde-pendent country?" he asked. The parliament closed after

passing constitutional amendments elevating the role of the private sector, the rule of law and enshrining Deng Xiaoping Thought on China's "market socialism" alongside that of Marx, Lenin and Mao.

Under the reforms, the private sector will become an "important component", instead of just a "complement", to the socialist economy, a recognition of the growing ability of entrepreneurship to create jobs and economic prosperity.

Zhu Rongji yesterday: he dismissed US charges that China had stolen nuclear secrets as an Arabian Nights' tale Chinese 'are still stealing military secrets from US'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Washington clash over the leaking of nuclear weapons secrets to China grew more heated yesterday, with a leading protagonist claiming that the problem was still go-

Smelling blood, the Republicans are stepping up their attacks on the Clinton Administration, pointedly asking if there is a link between the President's slow reaction to the suspected espionage and the reported but never proved Chinese connection to illegal contributions to his re-election campaign. The White House rejects the charge.

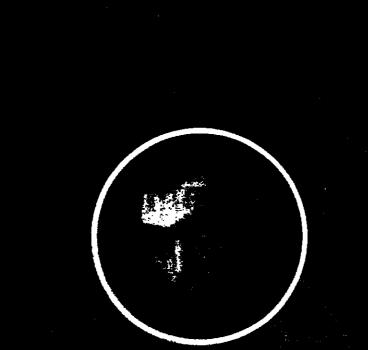
"Absolutely no truth to it it's an outrageous statement." declared Sandy Berger, Mr Clinton's National Security Adviser. Nonetheless, the accusations of Chinese spying, US response, are shaping up into a row that could run well into the presidential election season next year. Indeed, several second-tier Republican candidates are already making insistent demands for Mr

Berger's head. At issue is how China developed nuclear warheads, small enough to put several on one missile, that bear a striking resemblance to the W88s carried on American Trident submarines. The secrets may have been stolen during the 1980s from the Los Alamos nuclear research laboratory in New Mexico. A Taiwan-born computer scientist there has been sacked but not charged.

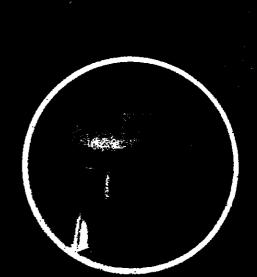
The accusation that the leaks are continuing has been made by Christopher Cox, Republican chairman of the congressional Select Intelligence Committee which investigated the leaks. He cited inadequate counter-intelligence at Los Alamos and other research laboratories. "Throughout the Government, we do not do a good job of protecting our military secrets from collection," he said.

One specific problem that the Clinton Administration was only just beginning to address was the unfettered flow ages from the laboratories. Mr Cox claimed. If true, e-mailing blueprints of warheads could be a far simpler way of spying than the Cold War chores of copying documents and dropping them off behind a tree for the KGB.

Bill Richardson, the US Energy Secretary in charge of cleaning up the Los Alamos mess, claims that the Administration acted "swiftly and responsibly" over the leaks.



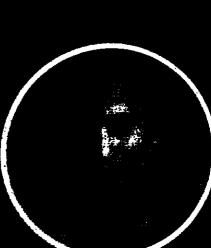




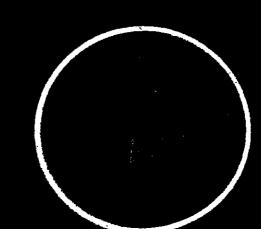


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Liz Taylor 'beaten by her father'

New York: Elizabeth Taylor has revealed that her father was a drunk who beat her as a child (James Bone writes). When I was a little girl, my father was abusive when he drank, and seemed to like to bat me around a bit," she said in a taped television interview to be broadcast before the Oscars on Sunday.

Taylor was born in London in 1932 but moved to the United States with her American parents, Francis and Sara, before the Second World War. She got her first film part at the age of nine in There's One Born Every Minute. Her performance in National Velvet,



Taylor in *National Velvet*: 'I don't blame him'

released when she was 12 made her a star. She told ABC television's Barbara Walters that she had grown to understand and forgive her father, an art-dealer. "I don't blame him . . . he was drunk."

Taylor's past may explain her troubled life since she left home to marry Nicky Hilton, an alcoholic who battered her



WORLD IN BRIEF

British ski firms

in French court

Paris: Two British tour operators and the owner of an alpine ski school are being prosecuted in an Albertville court in a legal row over British ski instructors' qualifications (Susan

Jean-Yves Lapeyrere, who runs Ski Cocktail in Albertville,

was charged with inciting eight British instructors to break

French law by refusing to make them take extra tests. If found guilty, he could be jailed for up to a year and fined

Fri00,000 (£10,000). In a separate case, Leonard Silver, 67, of

Maidstone, Kent, and Brian Sill, 49, of Kendal, Cumbria,

who own Silverski, are accused of letting three British "chalet

boys" supervise clients without ski instructors certificates...

Zimbabwe mercy plea

Harare: Richard Gladwell McGown, 61, the Scottish anaes-

thetist, made a last-mmute appeal to President Mugabe of

Zimbabwe to spare him from serving a six-month prison sen-

tence for negligently causing the deaths of two black children (Michael Hartnack writes). McGown, who should have str-

rendered to prison authorities on Saturday, hired an African

lawyer to petition Mr Mugabe to invoke his powers of clemen-

Johannesburg: More than 14.000 children were reported to have been raped in South Africa in 1998, Police Commis-sioner Neels Steenkamp told a conference on crimes against

children, held in South Africa's Northern Province. He said the figure had almost doubled since 1994, when 7,559 cases

were reported, lending credence to claims that South Africa was the "rape capital of the world". (AFP)

Paris: Passengers on Air France flights to Asia are being

shown an in-flight video warning them of the penalties for sex-ually abusing children while on holiday (Susan Bell writes). The film, in French and English, was made in association

with the Bangkok-based pressure group. End Child Prostitu-

tion and Trafficking, and cautions passengers that they can be prosecuted in their own country for child sex abuse.

Sex tourists warned

cy and convert the jail term to community service.

Child rapes double

Albanians take peace road

Accord by Kosovo rebels puts ball in court of Yugoslavia's President

Milosevic, Tom Walker reports

THE ethnic Albanian delegation to the resumed Kosovo peace talks yesterday handed Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Hubert Védrine, his French counterpart, a letter saying they would sign the Contact Group's autonomy plan for the province.

After a week of procrastination that threatened to cost the Albanian cause much international goodwill, the delegation, through its most intransigent member, Hashim Thaci, acknowledged that Kosovo was at a "turning point". Western diplomats said the letter. signed by Mr Thaci, signalled a sea change in the negotations, with the pressure now very much on Belgrade.

It was not clear last night how long the Albanians will stay in Paris. With face-to-face talks with the Serbs, who have issued a warrant for Mr Thaci's arrest, again ruled out as almost meaningless, there is little for the Albanians to do in the Centre Kleber, the peace conference's new home near the Arc de Triomphe.

One Western source admitted talks may peter out before the end of the week, when Mr Cook and M Védrine are likely to fly to Belgrade for yet another confrontation with Kosovo's ultimate arbiter, President Mi-losevic of Yugoslavia.

Yesterday there was no sign of a Serb climbdown on the peace plan's sticking-point — a 28,000-strong, Nato-led force to oversee and help to imple-ment the political part of the deal, which has been broadly accepted by Belgrade. Nevertheless, Mr Milosevic continues to call the international community's bluff, aware that the six-nation Contact Group of Nato airstrikes, currently the only bargaining-chip left to force through the deal.

Analysts in Belgrade gave a warning that Mr Milosevic might even sanction a fresh offensive in Kosovo as a prelude to any Nato involvement. The Yugoslav Army extended conscripts' military service by 30 days yesterday because of "threats of military interven-tion", the official Tanjug news agency said. The country continues to remain on a war-footing — an atmosphere that Mr Milosevic will seek to exploit.

Albanian sources close to Mr Thaci and the delegation gave a warning that the Kosovo Liberation Army's promises might be short-lived. "We know there will be no airstrikes if the Serbs do not sign. and in that case, if the Serbs keep on shelling, there will be trouble," Pleurat Sejdiu, the KLA's London representative, said. 'The KLA will have to

Despite the still gloomy prospects for peace, diplomats inisted the Albanian letter had injected new life into the talks and were happy to label it as a breakthrough. In the letter, Mr Thaci said that, after consultations with the people of Kosovo, "this delegation and I personally say 'yes' to this agreement. We would be honoured to sign the agreement in your presence at a time and

place of your choosing." Mr Thaci, 29, who has eclipsed Ibrahim Rugova, the former moderate figurehead of the ethnic Albanians, also praised Mr Cook and M Vedrine, the co-chairmen of the talks. "Your contribution, as well as the contribution of the administration of your



Ibrahim Rugova, moderate leader of the ethnic Albanians, gives the victory sign outside the conference centre.

Cook to read riot act to Milosevic

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, will go to Belgrade later this week to issue one final warning to President Milosevic, if the Yugoslav leader fails to match the ethnic Albanian promise to sign a peace settlement for Kosovo.

Mr Cook, who co-chaired the reopening of the peace talks, said that the Ser-bian side had "one less alibi for signing

up to this package". Although there was no sign of the Serb delegation weakening in its opposition to a Nato-led peace implementation force in Kosovo, British officials said that the Serbs would be given another 48 to 72 hours to agree to a deal. "If, after that, they are still being obstructive, it is likely that Robin Cook and Hubert Védrine Ithe French Foreign Minister] will go to Belgrade to make it absolutely clear to Mr Milosevic what he is

diplomatic pressure would lead to a sequence of events, starting with the with-drawal of embassy staff from Belgrade, the evacuation of the Kosovo verification mission and airstrikes.

sure on the Serbs yesterday, said in Washington: "The most important thing is that Milosevic and the Serbs must sign. If he shows intransigence and aggression, we

President Clinton, adding to the pres-

War crimes denied Zagreb: The last known Second World War concentration camp

commander, Dinko Sakic, right, pleaded not guilty at the start of his trial here to charges of war crimes. Mr Sakic, 77, the first member of the fascist Ustashe regime to be tried for war crimes since Croatia became independent from Yugoslavia in 1991, de-nied responsibility for the deaths of at least 2,000 people. (Renters)



UN helicopter lost

New York: A United Nations helicopter with 13 people on board has disappeared in Haiti, a UN spokesman said. The MIS, carrying six Argentine and one US passenger, left Portau-Prince on Sunday night, but radio contact was lost min-utes later. A search for the helicopter, crewed by six Russians, has so far found no trace. (AFP)

Russia and Serbs united in a Slavic brotherhood

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

THE ultra-nationalist leader of Russia's Liberal Democrat-ic Party, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, yesterday echoed the sentiments of the majority of Russians in voicing his sup-port for his Serb_brothers He said: "Considering the

tween Russia and Serbia as Slav peoples, we have always supported each other, and the Liberal Democratic Party gives Serbia a carte blanche to do anything, from uniting with Russia to allying itself to America."

While Russia would appear to be at one with the other five Contact Group countries in try-

ing to persuade Yugoslavia to agree to Western plans for a settlement with the Kosovo Albanians, the Russian people remain firmly behind their historic allies. Russia's links with fellow Orthodox Slav Serbia go back for centuries, and throughout the recent slaughter in Croatia and Bosnia, Russia has remained an apologist

seen in Russia as an attempt by the legitimate Serbian authorities to deal with terror-

ist Albanian insurgents. Russian press reports portray civilian casualties in the conflict as unfortunate victims caught in crossfire rather than as the victims of brutal massacre. When Nato first threatened

military action against the

Serbs, the headline in the Russian paper Komsomolskaya Pravda read: "Nato takes Kosovo under its wings - or the wings of its bombers." The fear is that, once influ-

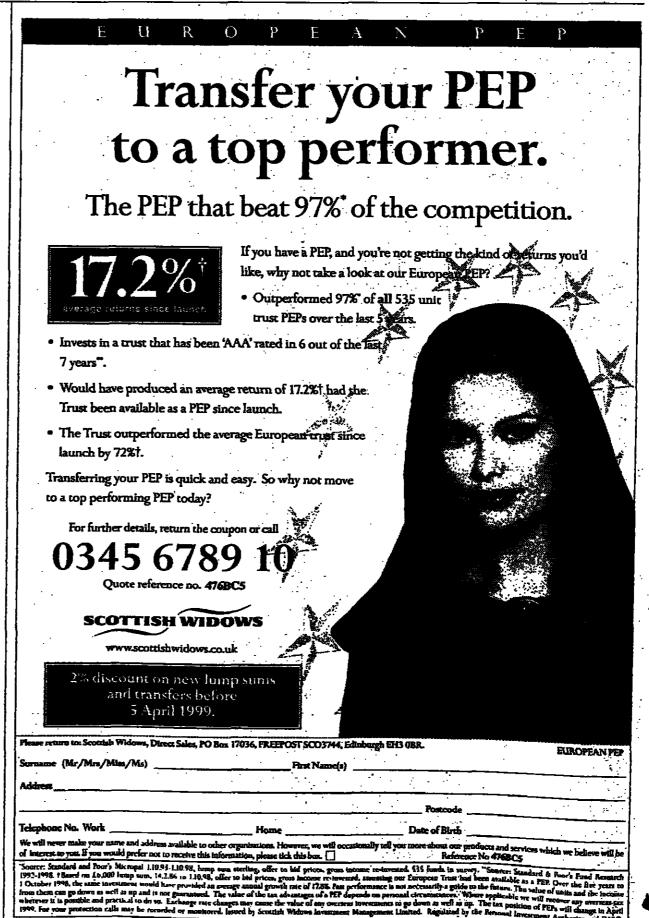
ence over some Slavs has been ceded to the West, it will not be long before Russia too is forced to bow to what is perceived as American-led aggression. It is a deep-seated sense

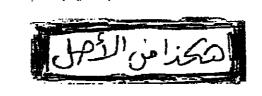
unites Serbia and Russia against Muslims in the area. Galina Sorokina, a former chairwoman of the Central Committee of Public Services and Local Industry of the USSR sums up the Russian view: "If we start supporting the Albanians in their bid for autonomy, we will have to sup-port the Chechens in theirs."



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Arrogance proved Cresson's downfall

Charles Bremner reports from Brussels on the dynamic but chaotic career of a woman dubbed 'Edith-la-Flamboyante'

6 Disdain for

FRENCH honour may be at stake in the scandal surrounding Edith Cresson, the European Commissioner at the heart of the Brussels sleaze affair, but her expected downfall holds no great surprise for the French establishment.

Long known as "Edith-la-Flamboyante", the former Prime Minister, now aged 65, was viewed in Paris as a dynamic but unpredictable outsider whose disdain for the rules could drive her to disaster.

In 1994, when President Mitterrand insisted on sending his longtime protégée to Brussels, Edouard Ballactur, who was

then Prime Minister tried to block what he considered to be a high-risk appoint-

rules could The chaotic tenmonth premiership of drive her to the woman whom Mitterrand used to refer to as "my little soldisaster ⁷ dier was proof enough of her shaky leadership skills, the

French Prime Minister argued. Mme Cresson's habit of skirting convention has helped to bring about her likely political disgrace as the main target of the independent inquiry into Commissioners' conduct. It has also handed the Socialist politician fuel for her belief that for the second time she is serving as a scapegoat for the sins of a wider culture.

As the report last night by five in-dependent experts, including two former EU auditors, made clear, the European Commission suffers

ment, most kindly defined as a lack of rigour that hails from an easier age of administration. Cronyism, political patronage and tolerance of dubious practices have long been a feature in a body that was launched in the 1950s as a supranational elite based on the senior ranks of the French civil service.

The Commission crisis started by the European Parliament in January is now forcing a purge that was inevitable, given the administration's failure to enforce modern

management methods.

Although Jacques Santer, the President, is carrying the blame for weak leadership, many inside the Commission point the finger of blame at Jacques Delors, his French Socialist predecessor, who was famous for neglecting the house-

keeping side of his

leadership while pur-

suing his grand

vision of a united Europe from 1985 to 1995. Mme Cresson has borne the brunt of anger over nepotism because of disclosures of her appointment of a dentist friend and five other associates to well-paid posts at the Commission. Lesser complaints were aired against Manuel Marin, the Spanish Commissioner for overseas aid. and João Pinheiro, the Portuguese Commissioner for relations with

Africa and the Pacific countries. The report criticised Señor Marin for lax control over the running of an aid scheme for Mediterranean nations, for irregularities in



Edith Cresson: French administrative establishment viewed her as an unpredictable outsider

hiring officials and for doing too little too late to stop fraud in the European Union's humanitarian aid budget which was handled through a Luxembourg contractor

in the early 1990s. In defending themselves, Mr Santer and his colleagues are blaming a lack of personnel. With 17,000 employees, the staff of a large city's administra-

tion, the Commission is expected to administer the EU's budget of £60 billion a year while enforcing EU law and launching new legislation. The biggest fraud, the Com-

mission argues, is committed in spending programmes run by the member states, notably in the area of farm subsidies and customs duty. The Commission's workload has led to much contracting to outside agencies, the main area of frauds identified by auditors, the Parliament and whistle-blowers.

Belgian police are investigating two alleged swindles involving an agency contracted to Mme Cresson's education division, but these are eclipsed by far bigger affairs, in-volving tens of millions of pounds, in other directorates, notably the humanitarian aid programmes.

Other Commission heads may roll, but Mme Cresson sealed her fate with her refusal to accept blame and her defiant approach to her parliamentary inquisitors. In the eyes of MEPs, including some of her French Social-

ist colleagues, her ap-pearances before the To win a Parliament been a tour de force contract, you of arrogance. With her back to the wall over her favours to have to belly friends, she asked a MEPs: "Are we sup posed to work only with people we do not

know?" That contrasted with the contrite air adopted by Señor Marin, who mollified MEPs by acknowledging failures.

dance

Mme Cresson sees herself as a victim of political machinations orchestrated from Germany with the aim of undermining French prestige at a time when Germany is trying to assert its power in Europe. That view is shared by Spanish and other Mediterranean socialists who see a political hand behind the whole affair.

Over dinner in her Brussels flat during the past month, she has held forth to visitors on her feelings

of injustice that go back to 1002 when she was pilloried by Socialis! colleagues and the media and summarily dismissed by Mitterrand as the shortest-serving French Prime Minister of modern times. She was ditched then, she believes, hecause she was forced to carry the can for the troubles of the Mitterrand Admistration. This time, she says. she is guilty of no behaviour that is not standard in the French adminis-

trative culture.

However, even within the colourful annals of the Mitterrand court. Mme Cresson stood out as a loose

Unlike most people appointed by Mitterrand, who came from the technocratic elite, Mme Cresson had caught Mitterrand's eye while working as a lowly member of his campaign staff. The former Edith

Campion had entered politics at the late age of 31 after a bourgeois youth that had included education at the hands of an English governess and a degree in commercial

Pugnacious and dynamic, she established herself as a political "tough guy" while also openly

trading on her unquestionable feminine charm. No unattractive wonan could succeed in politics, she said once. Appointed as a minister during Mitterrand's first term, in the early 1980s, she said that seductiveness was part of a woman politician's arsenal. "To win a contract. you have to harass, perform a belly dance if necessary," she said.

Some of her fiercest critics still acknowledge the charm, which remains formidable despite a bout of illness during the past 18 months.

Leading article, page 19

Minister rebuffs critics to back Leonardo restorers

the Italian Culture Minister, yesterday stepped into a mounting controversy over the restoration of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper, now in its final stages.

She said during a visit to the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, where the the work covers one wall of the refectory, that despite international criticism she had "every confidence" that the restored painting would be a "fitting tribute" to the greatness of Leonardo when it is un-veiled in May after 20 years of renovation. Officials said the visit was a demonstration of the Italian Government's trust in the beleaguered restoration team, headed by Giuseppina Brambilla, a Milan-based restorer who started work on the project in 1978.

Signora Melandri said the restoration made an "extraorimpact" and was "proof of the excellence of Italian restoration". But critics said Leonardo's masterpiece.

Richard Owen

on the furore over a project

lasting 20 years

which was decaying and faded when Signora Brambilla began her attempt to salvage it, had been "not so much restored as repainted".

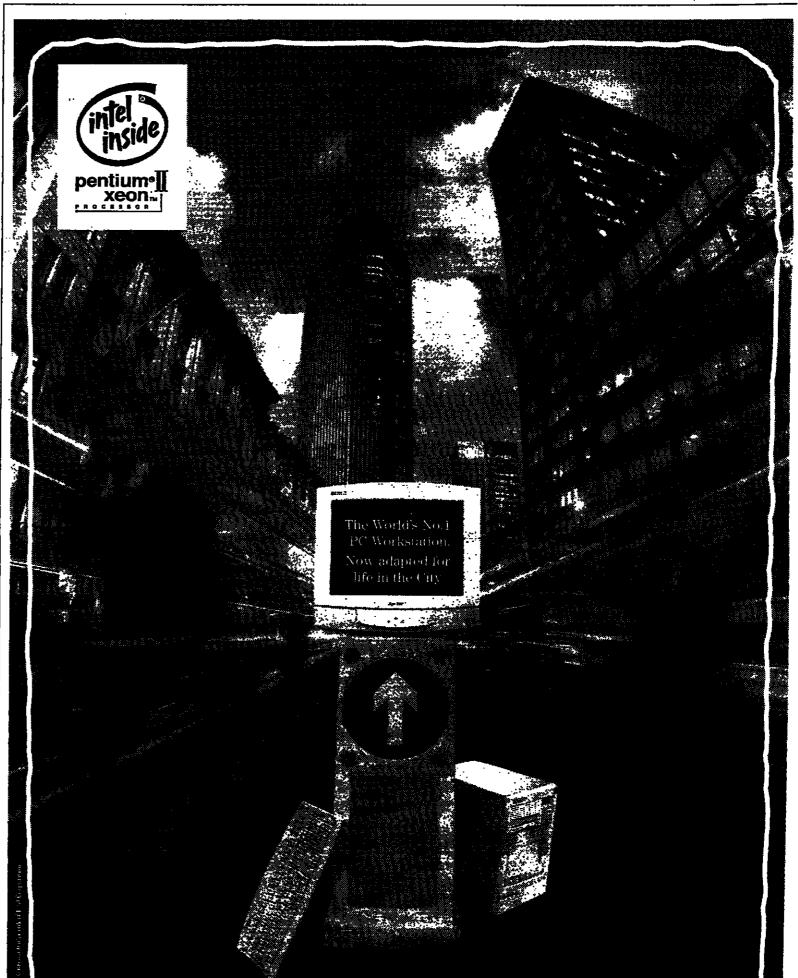
James Beck, professor of art history at Columbia University and head of ArtWatch International, a private charity which monitors art restoration, said: "What visitors will see is not Leonardo any more. it is a modern replacement. At most, only 20 per cent of what remains is original." The restorers had used watercolours

to "fill in the gaps". Pietro Marani, who is overeing the restoration for the Culture Ministry, said the restorers were only "removing what was painted on top of Leonardo over the centuries. We will be seeing the original for the first time.

La Repubblica said Italy had "the best restorers in the world. If you believe critics like Professor Beck, Italy gets it wrong the moment it touches anything of historic and ar-tistic value, from the Tower of Pisa to the Sistine Chapel. But if our art restoration schools are so incompetent, how come they are full of foreign students learning Italian tech-

Carlo Bertelli, head of the Italian Central Institute of Restoration, said the Last Sup-per project was "the most difficult restoration of century, including the restoration of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. We have saved a masterpiece.

Signora Brambilla clared: 'Those who accuse me of ruining the painting are a long way from the truth. If I wanted to repaint the Last Supper it would have taken a month, not 20 years."



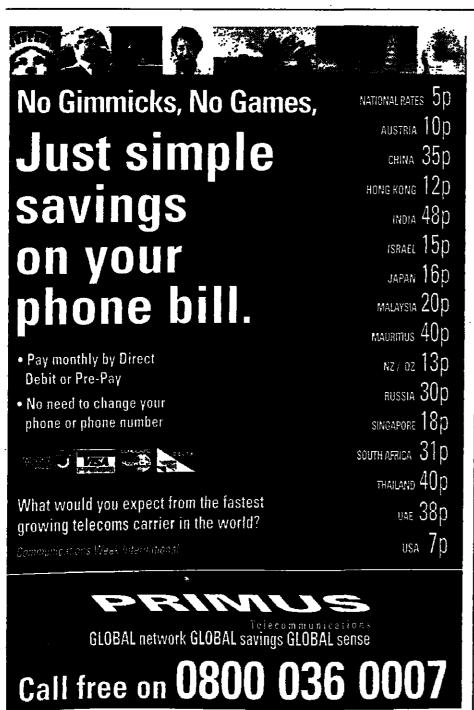
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Kurdish rebels warn tourists to keep out of Turkey

By Andrew Finkel in istanbul and Michael Binyon

KURDISH rebels attacked Turkey's E5 billion tourist industry yesterday by warning foreigners to keep out of

the country.

"All Turkey is a battlefield, including those areas designated for tourism." a statement issued for the armed wing of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) through the Germanbased DEM agency said. The statement, referring to the capture last month of Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader accused America, Israel and

"some European countries" of engag-ing in terrorism and piracy. It added: "It is essential that no tourist comes to Turkey, that governments warn their citizens and that travel compa-nies cancel reservations."

The Foreign Office was holding talks with the British Embassy in Ankara yesterday to see whether it should advise tourists not to visit Turkey. Diplomats were also talking to travel firms about the warning.

The Foreign Office stiffened its travel advice yesterday in any case after recent bombings and attacks in Istanbul and elsewhere. It drew attention to the dangers of visiting certain

parts of the country, and said that ten-sions had increased after the arrest of economy. Britons form one of the

There has been a substantial number of terrorist incidents and public disturbances in Istanbul and sporadic attacks elsewhere in the country," the latest advisory note said. It added that there was unrest in the emergency-rule provinces of Van, Hakkari, Sirnak, Tunceli. Diya-

rhakir and Siirt in the southeast. Officials added that they were considering more explicit warnings after the PKK statement yesterday. However any blanket warning against visiting Turkey would have a devastat-

largest groups of visitors and British tour operators pay close attention to

Foreign Office advice. This is not the first time that the PKK has warned foreigners not to take their holidays in Turkey. In most cases the threat of violence has been enough to discourage visitors in a sector that provides direct employ-ment for an estimated million people. In 1994, a bomb did go off in the coast-al city of Marmaris, killing a 24-yearold British woman.

MED-TV, a London-based televi-sion station sympathetic to the PKK's outside the European Union office Ankara. A passer-by was injured.

political position, denied a report that it had carried a news item saying that the warning had been retracted. "As far as we know, it still stands," a

station employee said yesterday.

Turkish public opinion continues
to be shocked by the fire bombing of an Istanbul clothing store in which 13 people died. "Don't give in." a headline in the newspaper Millipet said in recognition of a new nervousness that has kept people at home and away from the cinema and crowded places. However the violence continued yesterday with a bomb explosion outside the European Union office in

Jordan protests at Israeli water cut

SEVERE water shortages yes-terday plunged Israeli-Jordani-an relations into their first crisis since the accession of King Abdullah II after Israel said it could no longer meet its commitment to provide its Arab neighbour with the set amount of water.

The new dispute, the result of a drought affecting both countries, has underscored repeated warnings by Western experts that water rather than oil could be the prime cause of regional conflict in the next

In a related development, 600 Bedouin have entered Israel illegally from Sinai — land returned to Egypt under the 1979 peace treaty — and asked for asylum, claiming that their action was taken as a result of hunger arising from the drought, Israeli police report-

The police quoted some of the Bedouin who crossed illegally into the northern Negev desert as claiming that hundreds more intended to do likewise. "They arrived in whole families, with their camels and donkeys, and infiltrated into Israeli territory on the night of Sunday to Monday," Shalom Hemo, police spokeman, said.

Naser Lauzi, the Jordanian Information Minister, responded to the Israeli water restrictions by announcing that they will be rejected. "Jordan insists on the full implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, and rejects any change in its terms," he said.

el informed Jordan that its annual allocation of water to the Hashemite kingdom, set by terms of the 1994 peace treaty at 55 million cubic metres, would be cut by 50 per cent. "I have a bucket of water and it is empty," Meir Ben-Meir, the Water Commissioner, said. Mr Ben-Meir revealed that

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the Sea of Galilee, Israel's main reservoir of drinking water, was at its lowest level since 1908. "We must face the facts; it is impossible that Israel should have to carry out the burden of this severe drought," he added. "We are suffering a deficit of 60 per cent in the Sea of Galilee this year. Jordan is suffering a similar deficit in our mutual source, the Yarmuk River, so I proposed to the Jordanians that we both share the deficit."

Israel is bound to supply the 55 million cubic metres annually from the Yarmuk River, which runs into the Sea of Galilee between Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The Yarmuk's headwaters rise in Syria, and diplomats believe that the river has the potential to be an explosive issue

in a region fraught with politi-cal and environmental threats. Both Israel and Jordan have complained about unilateral Syrian actions which have affected the quality and level

Kamil Mahadin, the Jordanian Water Minister, told the BBC that Jordan was facing water cuts anyway, and Israel had no right to ask Jordan to share Israel's difficulties. "This agreement is binding." Binyamin Netanyahu, the Is-

raeli Prime Minister, tried to play down the crisis, which followed criticism by the new Hashemite monarch about Israel's refusal to implement key sections of the Wye peace accord with the Palestinians. forthcoming in the water arrangements," Mr Netanya-hu claimed. "We have gone well beyond some of the provi-

Lack of water is an emotive issue on the Jordanian political agenda. Last summer a scandal over foul-tasting and evil-smelling drinking water in Amman led to the sacking of the then Water Minister and helped to undercut the standing of the then regent. Prince Hassan, who was later deposed as heir by King Hussein shortly before his death.



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Times readers are invited to a rare evening with John le Carré, one of Britain's bestselling novelists, on Sunday, March 28, at 7pm.

Introduced by the Editor of The Times, Peter Stothard, the internationally acclaimed author will talk about his life and work, and read from his latest novel Single & Single. If you would like to ask John le Carré a question, please e-mail johnlecarre@the-times.co.uk. For more details visit The Times/le carré website at www.the-times.co.uk/lecarre.html.

The event, which forms part of The Word literary festival, will be held at the LSE Peacock theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, London WC1. Tickets cost £9 and can be booked on 0171-863 8222

HE TIMES • DILLONS • FORUM



Games verdict: Sydney broke the rules

FROM ROGER MAYNARD

AN official report issued yesterday after an inquiry into Sydney's successful bid to host the 2000 Olympics found that there were repeat-ed breaches of International Olympic Committee guidelines but no evidence of serious bribery or corruption.

The finding came as pressure grew for the resignation of the Australian IOC mem-ber, Phil Coles, from the Sydney organising committee, after he was given a "most serious warning" for accept-ing expenses-paid holidays from future Winter Olympics host Salt Lake City.

During a day of intense

scrutiny into Sydney's campaign to host next year's Olympics, it was claimed that IOC members were given



red-carpet treatment to persuade them to award the Games to the Australian city and not to its main rival, Beijing. Tom Sheridan, a lawyer ap-

pointed by the New South Wales government to hold an independent investigation into Sydney's bid conduct, said hundreds of thousands of pounds had been spent on

gifts to IOC members, ranging from clothes to sumptuous dinners. Some members were offered excursions to Australia's Great Barrier Reef, while others enjoyed paid stopovers in Asia en

While Mr Sheridan said ments offered to IOC mem- accepting gifts.

bers visiting Salt Lake City, he criticised the bid company for arranging the transport of seven wild Mongolian horses to Mongolia to satisfy the Mongolian IOC member. Shagdarjav Magvan.
Michael Knight, the New

South Wales Olympics ministhat he had uncovered noting far, yesterday introducalls for ing on the scale of the induce. Mr Coles to stand down after ter, yesterday joined calls for

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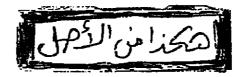
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'Secret stores' of smallpox virus fuel terror fears

AMERICAN government sci-enists gave a warning yesterday that destroying the last liv: laboratory samples of smilipox virus could leave the world prey to attack by terrorist who may be hiding secret sicks of the disease for use as a liological weapon. malipox, or Variola virus,

was officially eradicated in 190, and in 1996 the World Halth Organisation reached a consensus recommending tha all remaining official stcks of smallpox be incinerated next June. Scientists now fear, however, that samples of th virus may have fallen into the hands of terrorist groups or rutinw states with potentially attastrophic consequences. Presure is mounting to retain some samples of the virus that could be used to create anti-viraidrugs and a new vaccine against the disease.

n a report for the US Goverment published yesterday. a unel of the National Acadeny of Sciences Institute of Mdicine concluded that the exiting stocks of smallpox offeed "the chance to develop nev anti-viral agents to proex citizens against a future oubreak of smallpox which cold occur, for example, as th result of a bio-terrorist at-

Scientists want to retain official stocks, reports Ben Macintyre in Washington

tack". The panel feared that "an attack with smallpox could be especially lethal because people are no longer vaccinated against the disease".

In theory, the smallpox virus now exists in two government-run US and Russian laboratories, in Alabama and Siberia, but many scientists believe that samples are also being held in secret elsewhere.

One would have to be ridiculously optimistic to conclude that there are only two locations in the world where smallpox is stored," Amy Smithson. an expert on biological weapons, told The Washington Post. Donald Henderson, the US doctor who led the battle to wipe out smallpox in the 1960s and 1970s, said there was "no question" that stocks of the virus in Russia could be restricted to the Siberian laboratory. Before a 20-year internation-



Scoul family, in a monthly defence drill yesterday, prepare for an attack by the North Koreans

al medical campaign finally wiped out the disease, the high-iy contagious virus killed and scarred millions. Death fol-lowed for one in five of all who became infected.

The last recorded case hap-pened in Birmingham in 1978, when the virus escaped from a laboratory, killing one person and pushing the scientist in charge of the laboratory to suicide. Smallpox samples in laboratories around the world were progressively destroyed throughout the 1980s, but the Soviet Union continued to create vast amounts of the virus long after signing a 1972 treaty outlawing production.

Ken Alibek, a former official at the Siberian laboratory in Koltsovo who defected to the US in 1992, told Congress last year that the Soviet Union had not only produced "hundreds of tonnes of anthrax ... along with dozens of tonnes of smallpox and plague", but had also created hybrid, possibly vaccine-resistant, strains of smallpox, by genetic "splicing" with

Supporters of the plan to destroy remaining stocks argue that any attempt to use smallpox as a biological weapon would be seen as a "horrendous crime against humanity and that even the most extreme terrorist or pariah state would shy away from such a move. It is also argued that retaining even a small stock of the virus poses a far greater security threat than ordering its formal destruction.

in May, representatives of the World Health Organisation's 190 member states will meet in Geneva to review the decision on incinerating the re-maining stocks of virus on June 30. It is unlikely to pass the resolution to eradicate the virus stocks if both the US and Russia oppose the move -- and a plague that was soon to have been rendered officially extinct may be granted a last-minute



Irene Sáez, a former Miss Universe, celebrates her election as Governor of Margarita, a leading Venezuelan tourist island, with nearly 71 per cent of the vote. Señora Sáez, 37, who came a distant third in Venezuelan presidential elections three months

Worldly win for Miss Universe

ago, is now expected to make a quick return to the national political stage she dominated as a leader in opinion polls in 1996 and 1997. Proclaimed reputation for efficiency and honesty during two terms as mayor of an affluent district of Caracas, the Vene-

zuelan capital. The Margarita post became vacant in January after the death of Rafael Tovar, a newly reelected Governor. Señora Sácz was backed by a hotchpotch of parties, in-cluding the ruling Fifth Republic Movement. (Reuters)

'Mother is to blame'

Washington: Boys whose mothers smoked during pregnancy are more likely to grow up to be criminals or act violently, new research says (Damian Whitworth writes). Damage to the nervous sys-

tem, it appears, may be the cause of behaviour that can last into adulthood. The study, from Emory University in Atlanta, found that the effect transcends class: even after social factors, parental psychiatric problems and the father's criminal history were taken into account, the link between ante-natal smoking and law-breaking remained.

Clintons present a united front FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

BILL and Hillary Clinton last night put on a united front in the face of reports that their marriage is at breaking point. Mrs Clinton, who either has

a bad back or cannot bear to be in her husband's company depending on whether you believe her office or a string of news stories, was co-hosting a millennium event with the President at the White House at which some of the century's greatest women were to be cele-

She is also expected to appear at a St Patrick's Day reception with Mr Clinton tomorrow and is scheduled to join him at another event on Thursday.

The first thaw in their reportedly chilly relations came on Sunday, when Mrs Clinton braved a wintry Washington day to join her husband at church. The First Lady, a Methodist, often leaves her husband to attend the Foundry United Methodist Church alone on Sundays. But they were all smiles as they arrived together to hear the pastor. Philip Wogaman, deliver a sermon on the "disciplines of

Mrs Clinton is under intense scrutiny after she aban-

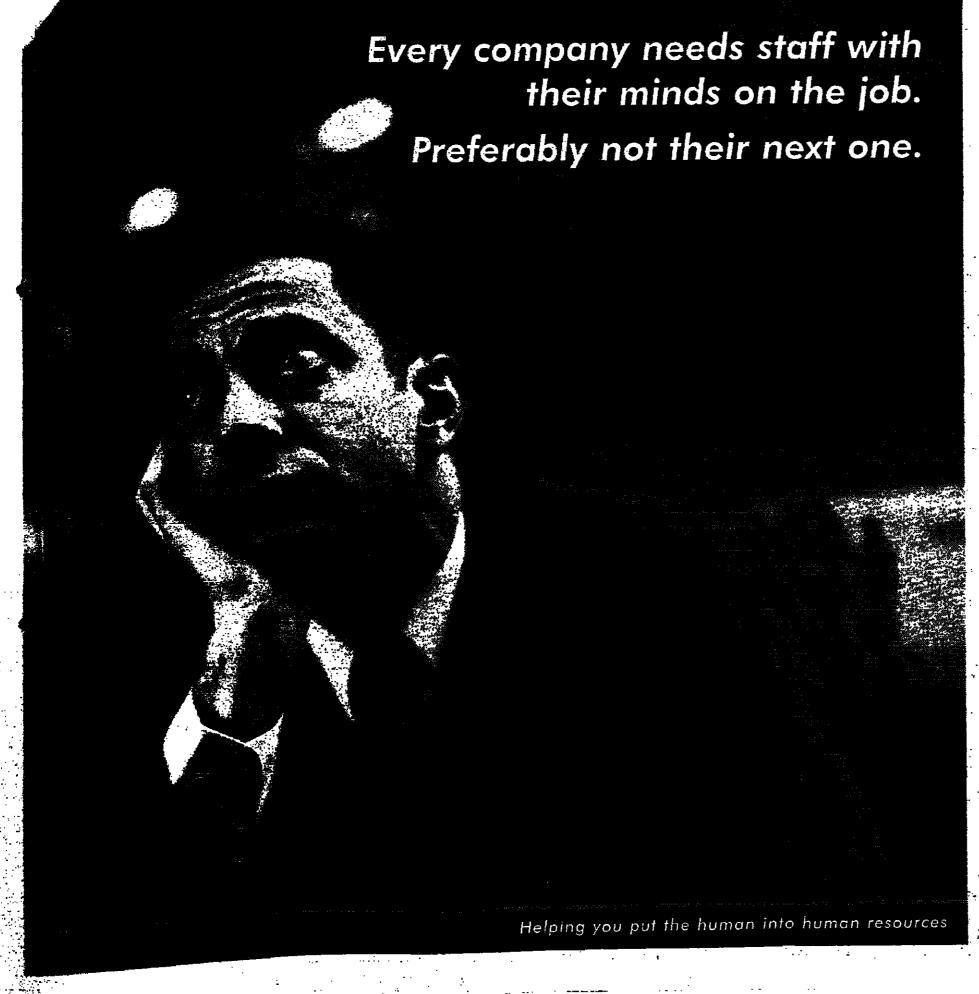
doned plans to travel with the President to Central America last week. She caused further comment when she left Mr Clinton to make a sentimental journey alone to his birthplace of Hope, Arkansas.

At the dedication of the wooden home where he lived as a boy. Mr Clinton described himself as "far from perfect" but thanked friends for standing by him and repeated his famous line from the 1992 campaign: "I still believe in a place called Hope."

According to her office. Mrs Clinton had a bad back and had been unable to travel. She talking to advisers about a possible run for the Senate from New York

However, one of a number of news reports about frozen relations between the couple said that she had stayed behind because she did not want people to note that she wanted a separate room from her husband. She was quoted as saying: "I don't want to be in the same room as him, let alone the same bed."

Blazing rows were also reported as the reason the couple cut short their recent skiing



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Don't waste your doctor's time cell like action ople who do not need medical ention. They are to blame for a ggish NHS, says Christine Webber

Each day GPs see an estimated 300,000 people who do not need medical attention. They are to blame for a sluggish NHS, says Christine Webber

Doesn't

everyone

know that

there is no

has just found a lump in her breast is phoning the health centre - only to find that there are no appointments available until

Meanwhile, a suicidal undergraduate is trying to ring the same practice. He is calling from a public telephone box, which other students are queueing up to use. The persistently "busy" signal is a further calamity in a day that has started badly. He gives up and goes for a walk by the river.

A woman doubled up with menstrual pain is also phoning the surgery. She persuades the practice manager that she must be seen that day and is given an emergency appointment — but not until late afternoon.

And an elderly gentle-man who has finally plucked up the courage to ask for help with impotence phones the health centre but cannot bring himself to tell the harassed-sounding re-ceptionist the nature of his problem. Her brisk tone and the indignity of

cure for What do these four people feel about their encounter with the a cold? NHS? They feel it has failed them - and so it has. But whom should they blame? The usual suspects are the Government for not allocating sufficient funds, the doctors for not being efficient enough and all those administrators - just because they are there. However, the plight of these genuinely sick people must be apportioned elsewhere. It is other patients who are to blame: selfish. irresponsible and demanding patients who visit the surgery unnecessarily, clogging up the system and wasting doctors' time and the

country's money. Recently I spent a morning counselling at a London practice where my husband works part-time as a GP, I was appalled at how many people were abusing the system by coming in with conditions — such as the common cold - that would get better of their own accord. It is undoubtedly true that most of them were feeling miserable and quite poorly — the waiting room was

t is Monday morning. A awash with people sneezing over panic-stricken woman who each other — but what were they expecting the doctors to do? Doesn't everyone who hasn't been on the Moon for 30 years know that there is no cure for a cold?

What was needed, I felt, was for one brave doctor to stand up in the middle of all this snuffly humanity and send the lot home. Instead, for the next four hours, a constant stream of cold-sufferers coughed their way along the corridor to one of the duty GPs and emerged min-unes later clutching a prescription for medicine that most medics will agree was unnecessary.

To be fair there were people there that day who definitely did need medical attention — tiny children, the elderly and asthmatics. But the vast majority of patients that morning should have stayed at home.

taken an aspirin with a hot lemon and honey drink and resigned themselves to the fact that they would feel lousy for a few days but

would then recover.
Of course, it isn't just people with colds who cause a logiam in the health system. While I was at that surgery a woman with a hacking cough visited my hus-band. "Do you smoke?" he asked.

"Only 20 a day." "Would you like to make a longer appointment for another day so we can discuss ways of

"No thanks. I like smoking." "But your cough won't get better until you stop."

"I don't think anyone's proved that. What I want is some Vibramy-cin — that generally puts me right."

hen there was the mother who demanded tranquillisers for her 17-year-old daughter because she was about to take her driving test. The mother could not see that if her youngster were drugged to the eyeballs she might constitute a danger on the road, and was incandescent with rage when her request was re-

Another patient — a lad of 16 arrived with a sporting injury. He had hurt his ankle playing rugby over the weekend and had gone to casualty for an X-ray. My husband



Waiting to see the doctor: "Very often really sick people are not examined properly because the GP simply does not have enough time"

was surprised to see him. What did they tell you at the A&E depart-

"Nothing broken. I've just got to keep my foot up for a few days." That was only two days ago. Why are you here?

"Ít's still hurting." 'it will hurt. You've done quite a

"Can't you inject it or something? They didn't say I'd have any pain." That is the cruz of the problem. Over the past half-century people have come to believe that it is their right not only to be cured but also to be relieved, instantly, of any pain or discomfort. It is this expectation of an NHS magic wand - something that even Aneurin Bevan at his most optimistic never promised - that results in hordes of patients abusing the NHS at primary-care

I estimate that every doctor sees a minimum of five time-wasting patients at every surgery. He takes iwo surgeries daily and there are 30,000 GPs in this country. So nationwide, every day, doctors are

seeing 300,000 people more than they need to. That's a lot of doctors' hours. If half these patients walk out with a prescription, it adds up to

a significant amount of money, too.
We all hear stories of people being denied expensive drugs for can-cer, infertility, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's and the like. My belief is that if we all used the health service more wisely, then funds could be found for patients like these who desperately need it. And apart from the financial aspect; it is clear that the volume of time-wasting

patients means that very often really sick people are not examined properly because the GP does not have enough time.

So what can be done? A GP friend has a fantasy in which he issues yellow cards temporarily banning patients who misuse the system. But it's only a dream. In reality we need the Govern

and to devise guidelines of the appropriate use of the NHS If the ple can be saught to be more considerate of the environment, or to ac. • The author is a psychotherapst.

cept that benefits are not limitles. they can surely learn to treat he health service with respect. his Government is powerful and pou-lar enough to act, and it mus-probably in conjunction with a octors' representative body and he Patients' Association. Whateer form their intervention takes it needs to happen quickly, other is the poor NHS, which at 51 is already looking menopausal, till decline rapidly into sentlity.

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CHANGING TIMES

Detecting thyroid disease

ple over 65 has thyroid disease. It may be detected through routine medical examinations and blood tests, or because an astute doctor has noticed the symptoms when a patient has come about another problem.

In all age groups thyroid symptoms often start insidiously. Further diagnostic delay occurs in older age groups as the disease presents itself in a different way in those who are younger. Two journals, Hospital Medicine and The Practitioner, recently dealt with the difficulties that this causes for the over-65s. Eight out of ten cases of thyroid disease in older people are the result of too lit-

tle thyroid, known as hypothyroidism, or myxoedema, often the result of earlier thyroiditis. Once this settles the gland becomes shrunken, fibrotic and underactive.

Twenty years ago a young artist developed Hashimoto's disease, a chronic inflammation of the thyroid that tends to affect younger age groups, and women rather than men. She initially had some treatment for overactivity of the gland but although advised that she would need, sooner or later, to start thyroid replacement therapy, she ignored the advice as being medical alarm-ism. Years later she was seen again, by which time she was anaemic, very overweight, had dry skin and lacklustre hair, a slow pulse rate, low blood pressure and felt permanently lethargic. She had developed the sparse eyebrows char-acteristic of thyroid disease. with the outer third missing. and a husky voice.

In other cases there are also changes in the cardiovascular system, including arteries that have furned up as a result of high levels of serum fats, such as cholesterol, damage to the heart itself, and the collection of fluid within the pericardium, the sac in which the heart lies. Other patients are left with too little thyroid after surgery, and the gland may have been affected by other diseases or the drugs used to treat them.

Secondary hypothyroidism may stem from the failure of the hypothalamus or the pituitary gland to produce the hormone that stimulates the thyroid. Treatment is with thyrox**MEDICINE**

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

ine. The dose must be closely monitored when this replacement hormone is first introduced. If the heart has been beating slowly for years and its arteries are clogged as a result of raised cholesterol, a sudden increase in demand from it as a result of giving more thyrox-ine may push it beyond its limits and can even lead to a heart attack. Once a stable state has been reached, frequent monitoring is unnecessary, but patients must take thyroxine for the rest of their days.

In older patients the symptoms of a hyperactive thyroid may not be obvious. They may suffer from increasingly poor appetite, cold skin and deterioration in their senses, including hearing and intellect symptoms that are all too commonly present even if the older person has a normal thyroid. Before Alzheimer's disease, for instance, is diagnosed, blood tests to assess thyroid hor mone levels are essential.

Patients with overactivity usually display nervousness, and notice the heat, so that there is increased sweating. Their hearts race and they complain of palpitations and associated breathlessness. They, or their families, will have noticed that they have developed a fine shake. Vision may be blurred, the eyes may be prominent. Despite a vorá-

regularly lost weight and may also become very overactive, sleepless and irritable.

In old age these striking symptoms can be missing, but the patients may be suffering from so-called apathetic hyperthyroidism. They may just appear rather weak and breath-less. More than 50 per cent of older patients with an over-

active thyroid have atrial firillation, or irregular hearthat. Any weight loss may be ambuted to depression, lethagy and failure to eat.

For the very young or the with big thyroids, overadve glands can be treated with jirgery. Older patients may hive radioactive iodine. Generaly. the standard treatment is iblets, especially carbimazoid

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What does it feel like to die?

vibrant, lies dying in a house in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her four children, the products of three marriages, drift in and out of the room, watching her, holding her hand, listening to her incoherent talk. As she falls in and out of consciousness, monitored by a faintly sinister Irish nurse wielding a syringe of morphine, she re-calls fragments of her life her first marriage, her youthful career as a singer, her second husband, her country club years, the birth of her children. And a weekend at a wedding in Maine when she was in her early twenties and met the love

It was a one-night stand. The man - or boy, rather went off and married a glamorous Italian; but for Ann, the protagonist, the night was a pivotal moment. Throughout her life she buried that night's memory, but on her deathbed she remembers infinite details: the smell of the North Atlantic the scent of balsam: the memory of her lover's voice; the dark sunglasses he wore when they first met; the straightness of his back. As she lies dying, pasting away, that night comes back to her in a thousand different ways.

Evening is a book about dying and death, but it is not depressing. Rather, it is uplift-ing because it is about the richness of memory. The author, Susan Minot, quotes William Faulkner in the beginning. and it is a good choice: "I give it to you not that you may remember time, but that you might forget it now and then for a moment and not spend all your breath trying to conquer it." Like Faulkner's classic As I Lay Dying. Evening is not only about remembering. but also about forgetting. "It is also about the unreliability of memories," Minot points out. doesn't remember Harris, her lover, so much as she remembers the balsamscented cushion."

Anyone who has ever sat in on a death vigil, holding the hand of someone they love, listening to them talk - sometimes uttering nonsense, sometimes extraordinary revela-- will understand this novel. Minot has sat through many and admits that she has had a longstanding obsession with death. "It's a given; it's like breathing air," she says.

> ould it be that James Major wishes to resume his career at

Marks & Spencer? It seems

nny, otherwise, that having

ent the last year reinventing

himself as a lad-about-town,

he should choose to lodge his

wedding list in Magnolia

Land. You'd think a set of Met-

ropolitan Bar ashtrays and a

cocktail shaker would be

more his line. But perhaps

Emma Noble was in charge

Whatever, Major Minor's

wedding list provides an

amusing contrast with that of

Prince Edward and Sophie

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Susan Minot has devoted five years to writing about death. But her book is uplifting. Interview by Janine di Giovanni

'I wanted

to write

about

what it

feels like

to die'

knowing what you will pull out and knowing that it is go-ing to hurt like hell. In one

haunting scene in Evening the

doctor tells Ann Lord that she

will not be alive in a few-

months to watch the changing

of the autumn leaves. It is a

startling moment: the inevita-

ble confrontation with her

death, and the helplessness

"If you watch someone close

to you die you know that there

is a huge gulf between you and

them." says Minot. "You can

hold their hand, but illness is

very isolating." The after-effect

is also devastating. Minot says

that she was "stunned" for

years after her own

mother died, that it

took a long time

for the resonance

of it to go away. Minot is tiny

and blonde and

wears rings on

many fingers. Her

publicist says she looks like Sharon

Stone, which is not

altogether true she is good-look-

ing, but it is an old-fashioned New

look, not a glamor-

preppy.

England

ous one. Minot looks very

much like what she is - the

product of an old, extended

(seven children) Boston Catho-

lic family: lots of prep schools.

Ivy League universities, Ken-

nedys, sailing, four sisters

white clapboard houses over-

American preppy scene. She is based in the West Village in

New York but travels a great

deal, packing everything into

two bags and taking off for

London, Rome, Africa or

in apartments in Rome or

mud huts in the Masai Mara

Every wedding list tells a story

adopt a cavalier attitude

to the phone bill, drum

up plenty of cheek and

spend a good half-hour

on the phone to the appro-

priate store changing

your mind about price

range and asking for

exact descriptions of the

crockery. Finally, express

a desire to buy "some-thing a bit different" and

you will discover their

Of course, no true

friend would indulge in

such behaviour - but

James and Emma and

Edward and Sophie will

be lucky if they do not

have one or two guests

who are secretly irked by

James and Emma, who

"swanning

have been much photo-

about", are probably wise

not to provoke resent-

ment with an aspiration-

and Dualit toasters.

al wish list. Hence the

absence, no doubt, of Versace

tableware, Cactus loo brushes

Even if your entire extend-

their lifestyles.

graphed

worst lapse of taste.

looking the Atlantic.

hanging out together, and big

o this is added her so-

phisticated element

probably loathes the

I suspect that she

felt by those around her.

years to write, is dedicated to three people: friends who died suddenly and horribly in a short space of time. That was not Minor's first experience of death. When she was 21 her mother was killed in a freak accident when her car was hit by a train after an ice storm; a few months later both her grandmothers died. That was the year all the mothers died,"

Although it was not relevant to the writing of the book, when we meet she is recovering from the death of her father George a month earlier from cancer. Unlike her mother, who died suddenly, he died

within months of cancer being diagnosed. "I don't know which is worse, sudden death or lingering." she says.

She was with her father at the end. She had finished writing Evening by then, but it was an eerie, terrible coincidence that he died in bed, "looking out through his canopy at a painting of the charge on Gettys-

burg". It is such details that people remember when they sit with a dying friend or rela-tive: and this book could not have such emotional resonance had Minot not experienced, or lived through, those "I wanted to write about

what it feels like to die," she says. "My first encounter with the deathbed vigil was my grandmother, then my friends and when someone dies, at the end they always have a similar face. I was drawn into the disturbance of it."

I know from experience that it is not easy to write about death, in particular the death of a parent. I am writing a book about the death of my own father, and it is the most difficult thing I have ever done, like reaching down into

Gift services can reveal more about a couple

than they really want, says Grace Bradberry

Rhys-Jones. The royal couple

are directing their guests to

Thomas Goode, the Mayfair

store that specialises in

baroque dinner services and

ornaments so OTT that the

uninformed eye would take them for market stall finds. A

"cutlery canteen" can cost

£4,000. Pity Sophie's friends

as they phone Thomas Goode

asking what there might be for £50. A teaspoon will be

Wedding lists provide an

opportunity for guests to

assess the tastes and aspira-

tions of friends. You may nev-

er have such a chance again.

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her. But she is also extremely disciplined. "I stay in friends' houses when I am writing, but I tell people 'No, I can't have lunch, but I can meet you in the evenings'," she says. "Then I just go to my room and

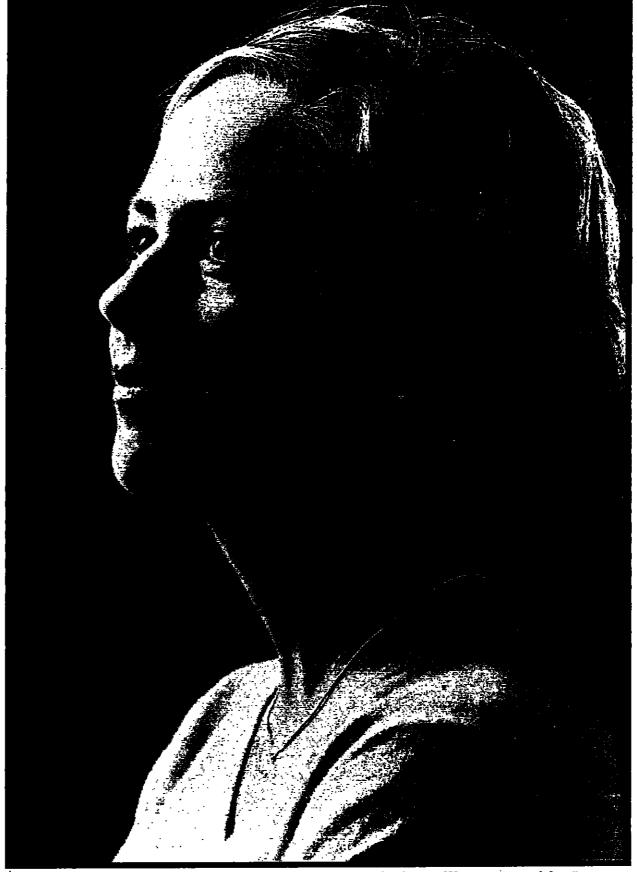
It is an enviable life, but it is also highly disciplined. Still in her early forties, she has written four books, a screenplay for Bernardo Bertolucci. a screenplay of Evening for Disney Films, and has already started another screenplay and a new novel.

Unlike her American literary contemporaries, Minot has something of an edge, a classiness, a style of writing that would be more at home 100 years ago than today. One could not imagine her penning American Psycho, for instance: there is more of the Edith Wharton, the elegant observer, about her. "Sue is like something out of another century, says her great friend, the screenwriter Zara Colchester. "Like a Victorian lady traveller, always taking her box of paints and her notebook wherever she goes. The only mod-

ern thing she does is e-mail." Minot laughs at this, but it is true. She takes her watercolours everywhere: the producer Julian Ozanne, with whom she is writing a script about the romance of Africa, says that when they broke down at a treacherous mountain pass while travelling in South Afri-ca recently, she got out her sketchbook and sat on a rock and calmly began drawing. "She is the most self-contained person I know," he says. She writes everything in

longhand, with a pen dipped in ink, and then transcribes it on to a manual typewriter. "It's the way I've always written," she says. "Nothing, not a computer or a typewriter, makes the process faster. It's a slow, slow process." When Bertolucci read one of her earlier novels, Monkeys (which is loosely based on her family life with her seven brothers and sisters), he rang and asked her to write the screenplay for Stealing Beauty, a film about a young American girl's coming of age in Tuscany. Minot conceded to write the screenplay, first by hand, then using a computer. I sense Egypt. She stays with friends she was not happy about this.

There are not many people around brave enough to tackle overlooking a bend in the rivthe subject of death, failed love The book, which took five some horrible hole and not er. She has friends every- or memory it is so much easi-



Susan Minot: "If you watch someone die you know that there is a huge gulf between you and them"

er to write Bridget Jones-inspired rubbish. But this is timeless, classic stuff.

As Minot once said: "Knowing you are going to die is a shadow that waves over our lives. We manage for the most part not to think of it. For me, it's hard not to feel death as the

 Evening is published by Chatto & Windus this month,

> stores will allow couples to pool money spent, then redistribute it. is not

> something any bride or groom ever discusses. The "bonuses" paid 'to

> couples once the dosh

has rolled in are equally

There is something oddly levelling about roy-

al wedding lists. Muffled

laughter and astonish-

ment greeted Lady Helen

Windsor and Tim Tay-

lor's selection, which

read like an Argos cata-

logue. Could it be that un-

til their wedding day they

had existed without a

washing machine, video

recorder and portable hi-

fi? It seemed extraordi-

nary — as did the request

for a Kleenex box cover

and a Super Nintendo.

Evebrows were raised at

the other-worldliness of

Lady Sarah Armstrong-

Jones and Daniel Chatto

who wanted books of

poetry and ceramic

There is a quid pro

quo, however - the hap-

py couple get to assess the ex-

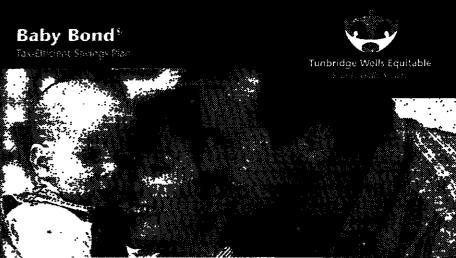
tent of your generosity. Prince Edward is surely unlikely to

do well out of the Linleys.

When they married he

plates by Jean Cocteau.

hush-hush.



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point some guests to one, some to the other. That a few to find out more Ret M16404NG ed family is riven by bitter displashed out precisely £52 on vorce, nothing in the nuptial some cups and saucers.

James and Emma: modest

shenanigans will be as sensi-

tive as the wedding list. I've

known people choose two

lists, one at John Lewis and

one at the Conran shop, and

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Tories have no right to be silent

Hague must defend our public

servants from the race radicals

ver the snap and crackle of the Rice Krispies, as the Pop-Tarts jump from the toaster, we can just make out the chit-chat of the kitchen table. The Tories have been listening to Britain, and father's grumbles at the rising cost of petrol strike a chord. But there are three themes that are durable conversational staples - the toast, butter and marmalade of kitchen-table talk. They are health, education and crime. The Conservative guest types the trio into his Psion organiser and withdraws with polite

It was Michael Portillo who coined the first kitchen-table metaphor for the Conservatives. "You know what it's like when a couple have fallen out of love," he told the Tory party conference in 1997, "when even the way one partner pours milk on the cornflakes drives the other mad?" That's how the voters saw the Tories - every reminder of their presence was an irritation.

It was also Mr Portillo who. last week, articulated one way by which the Tories could prove themselves worthy again — by learning to love the public services to which the British public had always been devoted. Mr Hague endorsed that view at the weekend, seeking to align his party with the nurses, teachers and policemen who provide the healthcare, education and crime protection that voters value.
The Conserva-

tives, however, have a problem in becoming the party of public servants. The party of the smaller State will find it difficulty to outbid a centre-left Government in a financial auction for their affections. There is however, one issue, central and urgent. on which the Tories could present themselves as

the champions of the public sector. The Conservatives could defend public servants from the unjust, unproven and demoralising charge of "insti-tutional racism" which has tives seem rejuctant to recog-nise that the most potent been so promiscuously flung And vet they are silent In the absence of any politi-

cal opposition, the charge of institutional racism has been applied to the police, teachers and nurses. The Royal College of Nursing accepted the libel with scarcely a murmur. Not since Lucifer's revolt in Heaven, we are asked to believe, have there been so many fallen angels.

But it is one of the principles of basic justice that an uncorroborated confession is no proof of guilt. And where is the advocate the public sector needs to protest at this unproven charge? The Conservative Party mumbles apologies and hands back the brief.

William Hague, speaking at the weekend, did touch on the radical assult directed at society's protectors. "Our police force has come in for a lot of criticism in the last month," he noted. "But let's never forget." he added, "what a magnificent job these brave men and women do for our community". The Tory leader may have been anxious to reassure the police that they had a defender in him, but his defence was more a plea in mitigation than

a direct rebuttal of the criti-

cism they have endured.

The Tory leader did not tackle, and has not rejected, the specific accusations which have been directed at the force. The Macpherson inquiry succeeds in exposing incompe-tence but fails to prove that it prefers the infinitely malleable charge of "unwitting racism".

securing what any court would require before pro-nouncing guilt — clear evi-dence of motivation. How can Conservatives stay silent while the idea is advanced that reasoning individuals are guilty of crimes that they did not know they committed, institutions as a whole can be condemned for their collective and unconscious, views, and society as a whole has to be changed radically to atone for There is evidence of sensitivi-

ty to race influencing police operations. But it points in a direction quite confrary to Sir William's conclusions. The Home Office has confirmed that 64 per cent more in overall resources and 35 per cent more in officer days have been devoted to solving the murders of black victims as compared with white victims. In 1997-98 the overall clear-up rate for murders was 24.9 per cent. But if the victim was black, the clear-up rate was 41.4 per cent. The weapons are

> public sector from uniustified assault. but the Tories fear to pick them up. Their reluctance is opportunity missed to champion those with a legitimate griev-ance. But it reflects

there to defend the

has, wisely, noted that the Tories can no longer be mere-

a deeper failure.

William Hague

party". Where they were once fiscally numerate, they must learn to be culturally literate and speak the language of "values". But the Conservacultural assault on Britain's at them in the past month. liberal values comes from the advocates of who wrap their radical purpose in the reassuring tapestry

strong tend to prey upon the weak. of "multiculturalism". The Tory thinker John and adults are stronger than chil-O'Sullivan, in a brilliant lecdren. So are their older siblings; one of the more startling findings is that ture to the Centre for Policy Studies, has pointed out that a small child is almost as likely to be the cultural assault on institukilled by a brother or sister (4 per tions goes beyond the public cent) as by a stranger (5 to 6 per sector troika of nurses, teachcent). The one inescapable fact is that 95 per cent of child murders are ers and police to the traditional Tory trinity of individual. family matters: a third of the killers family and nation state. The are mothers, nearly half are their boyfriends or husbands. As for the grievances of groups, whether ethnically or gender-based. victims, 40 per cent are not yet one are held to transcend the year old, and another 20 per cent are under four. And this is just the rights of individuals, and the culture of a nation such as ones who die. Britain's is judged to be so Think of those who don't: terror-

that it must be deconstructed. Do the Tories still believe they are so resented that their intervention in defence of unfairly vilified public servants would be as irritating as the unloved spouse's pouring of milk on the cornflakes? Or will they have the courage to recognise that finding their voice in defence of these institutions would be a pouring of oil on troubled waters?

rooted in an oppressive history

michael.gove@the-times.co.uk



At home and so at risk

repare to be harrowed. The NSPCC launches its biggest ever campaign this evening — "Full Stop" — with television advertising in which Alan Shearer and the Spice Girls histrion-Cruelty to children demands state intervention in the family — and fast

us that in doing so, you are not endangering the civil liberties and

ically shield their eyes from horrid

vignettes of mothers losing control,

abusers looming, fathers scream-

ing, toddlers crying for help. Don't

think you'll get away from it: there will be posters, interviews and a

fusiliade of awful statistics - a

quarter of all rape victims are

children, 100 a year are killed in

their own homes, new babies are

five times more likely to be mur-

dered than adults. On top of that,

the charity says that although 35,000 children are on the child

protection registers, they still be-lieve that most cases of cruelty go

There will be resolutions: about

new services, new partnerships, new

support for stressed families. There

will be celebrity endorsements from

everyone from media psychiatrists

to someone called Baroness Thatch-

er, who - unless I am thinking of

another peeress of the same name — was not previously famed for her

keenness to provide new services for

disadvantaged families. The aim is

"to enlist every individual and

organisation in a mission to end

ised, tortured, traumatised, neglect-

ed and with dreadful irony, often

thereby made incapable of treating

their own future children properly.

But oh, what a task! As it

happens, I think the NSPCC is right

to take its grand sweeping attitude,

but it must know that not all the

implications will be popular. It is

easy to state aims and to raise funds

for helplines, "Birth Packs" and the

rest; the difficult bit is to reach right

inside the darkness of the most

dangerous families and pluck the

children to safety. The even more

difficult bit is to persuade the rest of

Well, of course, they won't. The

. NOETR

cruelly to confiden.

reduce it: to end it, full stop.

unreported.

family privacy of the majority.

For we are in the middle of a quiet but genuine backlash against public intervention in the family unit. The backlash was caused by the discredited witch-hunts by social workers in the 1980s, and is aggravated by the prurient stress on sexual rather than purely violent — abuse, and by scandals in the care system. The result is a general mood of cynicism about anyone "interfering" in the family. Media analysts report a sharp decline in the coverage of child deaths during this decade, and

the charity concludes that the media is only interested in blaming professionals or strangers, not families. Yet the figures show that a child is 20 times more likely to be killed at home than on the street. study suggests that corded as perishing

causes" have in fact been killed by their parents. But the media know their public. The reason they dwell on wicked

strangers and paedophile rings is that we prefer monsters to muddles. It is easier to read about Robert Oliver or Marc Dutroux than to contemplate the reality of a dim, unthinking woman so desperate for love that she lets a drunken bully kick her baby about; or a couple so locked in perverse folie d deux that a habit grows up between them of tormenting a child whose defiance or awkwardness baffles them; or a whole family out of control, mazed by powerty, bore-dom, futility and drugs into a communal state of denial about the small child starving in the filthy

These things happen. The difference is that ten years ago they routinely led to an outcry against social workers for not taking the child away from its parents sooner. Nowadays it is more popular to side with parents whose children are "snatched" by authority.

The NSPCC asks for a government "Commissioner for Children". for rigour in reviewing child deaths, for public and media help and for better communication — at the moment it is almost ludicrously

did, into the information gap between police, social services and It pledges to "encourage" government to devote resources to children and families. But it falls short of openly challenging the big sacred cow: the view that natural families

possible to slip, as the West children

are best. It does not say - how could it? - the unsayable truth that some are no place for a child at all: I am not a pessimist; on the whole, families of all social

groups amaze me with their kindness, stoicism and good-will towards the weaker members, young and old. I would have no hesitation at all in saydo with less, not more, state interference. But there are hard exceptions, needing hard-nosed and decisive action. Their number may be growing: ours is an ever

more disjointed society, haunted by material ambition and plagued by narcotics and other quick-fix pleasures. Individuals are culturally encouraged to live for self-fulfilment at all costs.

This is dangerous for children, whose safety and happiness depend on adults' willingness to stay sober. keep on decent terms with the neighbours and the community, and to sacrifice some of their own fun. Self-indulgence, weakness and

stupidity easily turn into violence (how many children have been struck down simply because the clear, troubled innocence in their eyes infuriates an adult who hates the constant reminder that he or she is in the wrong?). At the moment, the received wisdom of social work is that such adults — especially if they are female — must be under-stood, "supported" and "educated" and given another chance. This happens to fit in rather well with the comment@the-times.co.uk

shortage of decent public care and the ponderousness of the adoption system. But where a child's safety is concerned, support and education are only the answer if they work very quickly indeed. If not, Pollyanna optimism is out of place the child's interests are not necessarily those of the muddled, useless, dangerous parent, and the child's

One of the most chilling testimo nies at the time of the Bramley uproar was from a seasoned fosterer, John Waite of the BBC, who vrote about the difficulty of handing a child back to grim natural parents when ordered to. He told of a small boy who had tried to hide under the bathwater when someone unthinkingly said "Daddy's coming"; he went back to Daddy.

Another arrived pale and silent.

blossomed in his weeks with them. and wept when he was returned into a terrible room where dim, lethargic, parents barely acknowledged his arrival over the racket of the television. Waite said stoically that fosterers have to get used to it, because that is the deal; perhaps we should think more carefully about the deal and banish institutional sentimentality about the blood tie.

finished writing a novel recentwho only likes babies and dislikes her 11-year-old. In one . scene she dismissively says "that kid never brought me no luck". I thought I was caricaturing this minor character, and worniedly showed the passages to three separate child protection workers. They all assured me that I have, on the contrary, been very soft. One observed that her problem with younger staff is that faced with an expressive, self-pitying adult, they are swept away in empathy and forget that the child has no voice. The mother says she loves the baby, and has had a hard time in her life, and they stop seeing the scars on the child."

But if we are to be tougher about removing children from dangerous parents, other things must change. Care should be far, far better, fostering more honoured and adoption much faster (at the moment it takes double the average time in America, for an identical failure rate). And children, who need protection most, must be put firmly at the centre of policy and not regarded as an expensive by-product. Thus far, at least, the NSPCC has got it absolutely right.



Dame Judi Dench to jazz up the Order of Merit. If selected, the theatrical dame will be the first actress to be so honoured.

The deaths of Sir Isaiah Berlin,

Ted Hughes, Lord Denning and Lord Menuhin have devastated the 24-strong group (tasteless sorts dub it the Order of Mortus because of the seniority of appointees). Surviv-ing members, such as Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and Baroness Thatcher, are rather dry (in their manner. not in their consumption). There is a will in royal circles to

revive the purpose of the Order, founded by Edward VII in 1902 to honour those "as may have rendered meritorious service towards the advancement of the arts, learning, literature and science. Dame Judi (below right) has stirred royals with Oscar-nominated displays with Oscar-nominated displays such as Queens Victoria (in Mrs Brown) and Elizabeth (Shakespeare in Love). She will join only a handful of women in the Order after Florence Nightingale (left). Unusually in this Blairine era, the control of Her Molecular in the order after for the control of Her Molecular in the order of the the order o

choice is in the gift of Her Majesty One OM, Max Perutz, a scientific sort, is uneasy: "I have known some very great actresses who deserve it. I do not know Dame Judi at all. I have no idea who she is."

But Dame Cicely Saunders is a fan and eagerly awaits the chance



ace: "We have lunch with the Queen and the Duke, who both seem very relaxed. It is a marvellous mixed bag. I have enormous confidence in the Queen's choice."

JACK STRAW is pursuing his family policy with gusto. The Home Secretary has appointed trustees of the new National Family and Parenting Institute, including Ed Straw, forgetting to mention that he is his brother.

■ SPEND a weekend spying with Rupert Allason. The former MP little romps run by a Midlands hotel: for £198, would be John le Carrés can listen to an after-dinner speech by Allason on "the secret world - the MI5, MI6, that sort of thing" to tee up a tour of Bletchley Park, RAF bases used by wartime secret agents, and Kim Philby's haunts in St Albans. "Spy buffs will love it," suggests Aliason, limbering up in the Caribbean.

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STREET FIGHT

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HINTS that Clive Anderson (below) may return to the Bar. The TV host kept his name on the door at 4 King's Bench Walk and has been dropping by for drinks. He has told friends that he misses the law and felt happiest before being struck by the curse of celebrity.



relaxed view of suitless sorts. I hear One suggestion is that staff will now be allowed to employ their considerable powers of discretion.

Regulars worry. Nicholas Soames thunders: "It is deplorable. The point about it is that it doesn't allow jeans wearers who look as if they have stepped out of a gay bar."

SINCE the election, ministers a have issued 18,000 press release. It was Jo Grimond who noticed the inverse relationship between the printing of such notices and the taking of political action:

natural constituency, Phillip Golds addressed public school girls reconly. You have managed to lay school fees, so surely you can jey university fees, too?" argued Godid-This went down so well with the

JASPER GERARD



THE Savoy is to take a more that this follows an awkward scene when Bill Gates was asked to slips tie over his polo-necked cranium.

APPEALING to new Labour hockey sticks that poor Philip wo

'In the Bulger case the justice system delivered a verdict which brought some peace to our troubled hearts, only to be subjected to mad Euro litigation' er be made. People are learning Roger Scruton "rights". And since duties are not mine but other people's, nobody

British justice, and the English law in which it is based, have enjoyed the confidence not only of the British that brought some peace to our people but of the entire civilised world. The law remains our most important invisible export. The jury system, the common law conception of duty, the doctrine of precedent, the system of appeals, the rigid separation of olicitor and barrister, the brilliant device of equity - all these bestow on the English law an ability to do justice in situations that had never been envisaged by Parliament.

But all that is changing. First, our native sense of justice, derived from a law that places duty before right and precedent before innovation, is being overridden by the rights-based law of the European courts: a law invented by ideologues and activists, with no roots in the customs and feelings of the people. We see that brought some peace to our troubled hearts, only to be subjected to mad litigation directed through the European Court of Human Rights, whose only interest is in the "rights" of those who committed this terrible

But the decay of our legal system comes not only from outside forces. There is an inward loss of respect for the law - a sacrifice of the law to the interests of the lawyers. Barristers are no longer representatives, defending their clients before an impartial judge, but legal activists, testing the law for the money that can be squeezed from it. Solicitors are no longer there to shield us from legal misfortune but to throw us into the fray, often charging on the hope of a share of profits. The

Government's Access to Justice Bill, currently going through this trend. Gradually our courts are adopting the American prac-tice of awarding damages not on the grounds of fault, but on the grounds of ability to pay. They are becoming machines for the redistribution of income, taking money from the innocent - and in particular from the innocent taxpayer - in order to reward

the "victim". regardless of fault. A doctor recently won nearly £500,000 damages from her health authority on the ground that she was no longer able to work, having accidentally jabbed her finger on a discarded hypodermic needle and having, in consequence, developed "needlepreviously recognised by the law but immensely useful to such a Now a doctor who can so

easily develop a phobia about needles is clearly pursuing the wrong career. And the thought that she must be compensated in full for a weakness that is no different in kind from the weaknesses that so many of us either suffer in silence or strive to overcome reflects a wholly immoral view of personal liability.

The common law has depended upon tacit assumptions. One is that damages are granted in order to rectify a perceived legal wrong. Another is that people are moral beings, who take responsibility for their faults and deal with each other openly and fairly until things break down. basis of "no win, no fee" in the stick phobia" - an ailment not. Those assumptions can no long-

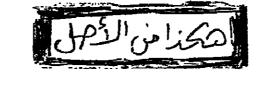
how to present themselves as victims" of wealthy or well-insured enterprises, and relying on the rhetoric of barristers and the sympathies of judges to earn sums that they are rarely likely to

I hey are also acquiring a habit of "moral evasion", as David Selbourne has aptly called it - refusing to admit their faults, or to take responsibility for their lives, and shifting the burden of their existence on to others who, or so they imagine, can afford to They are also taking their cue

from the European courts, and rephrasing moral questions in terms of rights while refusing to recognise the existence of duties. Everything undesirable, and every call to behave better, is experienced as a violation of comment@the-times.co.uk

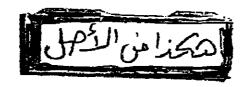
has a "right" to complain about my offensive actions. The damage done by this emerging rights-based culture affects serious matters such as the balance of justice in the Bulger case, but also seeps into everyday disputes. As one defendant expressed it in a recent noise pollution case "I like music and I like it loud so I can hear it. I feel I have been victimised." The effect of the new style of

litigation is that courts impose unjust penalties on innocent parties, while rewarding naked self-interest and calculating litigiousness. The common law is de-moralised", just like the people whom it serves, it then becomes a source of conflicts rather than a means for resolvine them.



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SINS OF COMMISSION

Santer and his colleagues should quit in disgrace

Fraud, mismanagement, arrogance and contempt for public opinion: those have become the hallmarks of the European Commission. To the embarrassment of those who see the EU's top bureacrats as the basis for an expanding European government, billions of pounds can now be shown to have been wasted through incompetence and dishonesty. According to the yearly auditors' report the Commission's culture of cronyism has brought to the Commission some of the worst Spanish practices - and not only from Spain - that have sapped the motivation of thousands of civil servants in Brussels and eroded public confidence in European Union institutions.

Yesterday's report on the scandal has proved as damning and forthright as the Commission's most trenchant critics forecast. It said it was difficult to find anyone who had "even the slightest sense of responsibility". It confirmed, in chilling detail, the nepotism and the backhanders, the political patronage and tolerance of dubious practices that have been a feature of the Commission since its establishment in the 1950s. This Commission stands accused of being the most corrupt to hold office. Jacques Santer's belated attempt to distance himself from this culture of corruption has been as self-serving as it has been ineffective. It was only the European Parliament's threat to dismiss the Commission that brought any acknowl-

edgement that anything was wrong. The President of the Commission and all those named in the report should, if they had any honour, immediately resign. But the chances of their taking this minimum step are slight. Edith Cresson, the Commissioner most deeply implicated, has been by turn arrogant, defiant and conspiratorial. Refusing to acknowledge that hiring her dentist as a special adviser or putting four other unqualified cronies on her payroll was wrong or corrupt, she sees all the charges either as part of a German plot or

as a new manifestation of the male chauvinism which she blamed for her 1992 dismissal as Prime Minister of France. Her. devastating remark that she was guilty of no behaviour that was not standard in the French administrative culture may be accurate, but it has cost her the support of the French Government which may now decide her cause is indefensible.

Her fellow Commissioners are under enormous pressure to clean up before they leave office at the end of the year. But singling out Mrne Cresson will be difficult. Manuel Marin one of the Spanish Commissioners, has been named, as have Monika Wulf-Mathies of Germany and João de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese Commissioner who found posts for his wife and brother-in-law. And fingers can still be pointed at several others who have not been named. M. Santer stands over it all.

If there are no resignations, sackings will not be easy. Invoking Article 160 of the Treaty of Rome, never before used, the President could apply to the European Court of Justice to have Mme Cresson removed on the ground of failing to perform her duty. If he were to choose not do so, the Council of Ministers, which can also take such a step, must act. Either way, it will be time-consuming and messy, and Mme Cresson will try to draw out proceedings. Some sections of the French Government, rightly ashamed of their nominee's record, may try to spin things out until November, when the issue will become moot. That should not be allowed to happen. An example must be made, and not only of the hapless Mime Cresson. The EU cannot open its eastern doors to a union of cronies. It must put on the agenda of the next inter-governmental conference machinery to deal swiftly with corruption and incompetence. And the besmirched Santer Commission should be remembered as a warning to those who would

CHILDREN IN COURT

replace them.

Humane arguments and flawed conclusions in the Bulger case

However many profoundly disturbing questions were raised by the sadisfic murder of James Bulger, the toddler hacked to death by two ten-year-old boys in 1993, it has not hitherto seemed in doubt embarrassing environment. that Robert Thompson and Jon Venables received a scrupulously fair and humane trial, or that they were correctly found guilty of what the trial judge termed an "act of unparalleled evil". That has now been questioned by the European Commission of Human Rights.

The commission's reasoning appears somewhat tortuous. Young as the offenders were, it accepted that because each child "knew what he was doing was wrong", the test of criminal responsibility had been "correctly applied". Yet, deciding that their trial was not fair, it has sent the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

The nub of its case is that children of that age should never be subjected to "public trial in an adult court with attendant publicity". It did not dispute that the boys understood the purpose of the proceedings and knew what was at stake, or that they were competently represented. It accepted that the court attended to their needs, shortening hearings and arranging for the presence of their social workers, and that their lawyers made no complaints at the y time. But it found that open trial in an adult court is of its nature so "severely intimidating" to a child that it is "deprived of the opportunity to participate effectively" and thus of a fair trial. The inference is that shielding young defendants from distress takes precedence over the deeply held view that justice should be seen to be done, and that in the very rare cases of juvenile

murderers that requires a public trial. This was not a unanimous view. To a dissenting minority, it was "impossible and unrealistic to demand that a fair hearing requires the accused to feel at ease, or fully in command of the complexities of a trial. If that were so, they argued, neither children, nor illiterates, nor those with mental problems or "low intelligence", nor even those unfamiliar with the law, could

ever be tried. Even in trials held in camera, in youth courts, the unavoidable need for lawyers and witnesses would make a child feel "out of place and in an oppressive and

Common sense suggests that this must be so, and the court should take these arguments seriously. But it is also, in practice, a reasonable supposition that the Bulger trial format would not now be repeated in this country. Liberal legal opinion is moving towards something closer to the continental system of an examining magistrate for these fortunately rare cases. More significant for British law, should the court rule against the Government, are the commission's conclusions that it also breached the European Convention for the Home Secretary to alter minimum sentence set by a judge, that the boys' rights to a review of the lawfulness of their imprisonment have been violated, and that children should never receive more than a "short tariff".

It is a sound principle that sentencing is for judges, not politicians. The evolution of English law makes rare exceptions to this rule for particularly dreadful crimes. That was part of the social compact when capital punishment was abolished. In the Bulger case, the House of Lords ruled two years ago that, in raising the tariff, Michael Howard had acted unlawfully because he had been influenced by non-judicial considerations, notably a widespread public demand for stiffer sentences than had been set by the courts. Although that showed judicial review at work, the commission wants politics removed entirely from the judicial arena. But justice can never be absolutely removed from the domain of policy. If these rulings leave a sour taste with the British public, as they will, it will be because in the commission's concern for the rights of two child killers, it seems almost to overlook the particular horror of the crime, and their incontrovertible guilt. Hard cases make bad law; and bad law could result if the court does not set some, at least, of these arguments aside.

STREET FIGHTING MAN

An MP's plan to stop traffic jams deserves government support

Today thousands of motorists will trundle past holes in the road, dug up for a different reason only a few weeks ago, with no workmen anywhere in sight. Their frustration might be tempered by news that Christopher Fraser, the Conservative MP for Mid Dorset and North Poole, is sponsoring a Bill under which companies would be fined if they failed to complete road maintenance within a specified time. Money raised would be given to local authorities to spend on road maintenance. This policy decongestant, lumbering down the legislative slow lane, offers much-need-

ed relief for drivers. The previous Government's attempts to unclog roads disappeared on Whitehall's hard shoulder. Under the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991, the Secretary of State can require a company to pay a charge to a local authority if its work exceeds an agreed timetable. This Government, like reservation about using this power, no doubt afraid of public utilities' response.

Hopes are pinned on the Streets Works Register, to be launched on the Internet next month. By requiring utility companies to register their requests to dig up a road, their work might be co-ordinated. Multiple incisions into main traffic arteries, such as London's Bishopsgate being dug up 333 times in three years, should be avoided.

Whether this system will be able to cope with the volume of roadworks in inner cities remains to be seen. In the London Borough of Camden alone, 20,000 holes a year are dug. Even if the public utilities do communicate on the electronic superhighway, there will still be no penalty for companies that do not complete their work promptly or thoroughly. The Government should recognise the political mileage in backing Mr Fraser's Bill. The Budget dug deep into motorists' pockets, which are far shallower than those of the public utilities. By giving the green light to Mr Fraser's scheme, the Government would have its jam today, and motorists would thank ministers for having no jam tomorrow.

TERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

in Budget lottery?

From Mr Adrian Cosker

Sir, Our high indirect taxes are not damaging just to the various indus-tries on which they most immediately impinge (leading article and letters, March 15). They reduce our overall competitiveness by raising costs generally and, as the Bank of England's targeted inflation measure counts changes in them (absurdly) as inflationary price rises, they have the effect of keeping interest rates, and thus the pound, higher than they would otherwise be, to the further detriment of

wealth creation within our economy. It has long been accepted that high rates of income tax both reduce incentives and are counter-productive in that they lead to a reduction in total revenues raised. It is time to recognise that excessively high indirect taxes can be just as harmful:

Yours etc. ADRIAN COSKER (Head of Economics), The Knights Templar School, Park Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6DZ. March 15.

From Mr Peter Johnson

Sir, With all due respect to Mr David de Gale (letter, March 12), taxes on tobacco, alcohol and petrol are anything but "stealth" taxes.

The true stealth taxes are those which have reduced the yield on pension funds and invested savings, at a time when we are being urged to do more to provide for our own old age, and the windfall tax on utilities which, although popular, removed money which would otherwise have had to be used to reward shareholders (most of us these days in one form or another), pay off debt, reduce prices, or for investment in expanded or upgraded facilities.

Yours sincerely. PETER JOHNSON, 20 Fairlands, East Preston. West Sussex BN16 1LH. March 12.

From Mr Paul McCallum

Sir. By increasing the winter fuel allowance for pensioners, the Chancelfor may well be responsible for saving someone's life this coming winter. This, coupled with increasing pensioners' Minimum Income Guarantee in highlights that the Government believes in improving the standard of living for pensioners after many years of Conservative neglect.

Yours faithfully, PAUL McCALLUM, 32 High Street, Ruddington, Nottingham NGII 6EA.
paul.mccallum@boots.co.uk March 12.

From Mr Nigel V. Hewitt

Sir, Is it right to say that this particular Budget did away with any recognition of marriage? I thought that it still provided less for two pensioners that are married than for two that are not.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL V. HEWITT. 36 Princes Terrace, Kemptown, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 5JS. nigelh@combro.co.uk March 13.

From Dr Susan E. Kay

Sir, We are that most undeserving category of humanity: a married couple with a mortgage, both self-employed, living in a remote enough rural spot to need a diesel Land Rover to guarantee year-round mobility, no dependent children (well actually. with a daughter on a six-year course at

What we resent is the impression given to the electorate that their gain came courtesy of one Gordon Brown a bachelor, living in the capital city. with free housing and transport, no children at university and employee status. We would like just a little acknowledgement of the contribution from the losers in this "everyone's a winner" Budget.

sorrows in Scotch won't cost more.

Yours faithfully, SUSAN E. KAY Dissington Old Farm, Dissington. Newcastle upon Tyne NE18 0BW.

Country skill

From Mr J. A. Cunningham

Sir, What a joy today it was driving on the northbound carriageway of the MI between junctions 8 and 9 to see several hundred yards of new and perfectly executed "stake and bound" fence. I do not know if this superb example of hedge-laying was produced by the owner of the adjacent farm or by the highway authority.

The Countryside Agency and similar bodies really must encourage the extended use of this old English rural craft on the roadsides. Funds should be provided to train apprentice hedge-

Yours etc. J. A. CUNNINGHAM. Dorcas Farm, Stoke Hammond, Milton Keynes MKI7 0EA.

So who really won Pilate's reputation and early Christian 'spin-doctors' Historically, the incident is most improbable. Pilate had the might of

From Mr James Dowling

Sir, in reference to Mr P. M. Burrows's assertion that Pilate was fair-minded to Jesus (letter, March 12; see also letters, March 10 and 13). I can only agree.

The Jewish historian Josephus gives us a picture of Pilate as a harsh and brutal man, yet crucifizion was the Roman punishment for insurrection, and a certain reading of the Gospels — bearing in mind the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the cleansing of the temple, the fact that the Gospels show Jesus as the centre of a mass movement with (Luke tells us) Zealots numbering among his disciples - would seem to suggest that that is exactly what Jesus, wittingly or otherwise, was involved in. Certainly it is possible to reconstruct a picture of Galilee which would suggest that Jesus's message was very divisive indeed.

I would suggest that it is likely that, within his remit, Pilate - the Roman official charged with keeping order in a province brimming with trouble was more than fair-minded in executing a serious challenge to the peace of the province Certainly the Roman procurators' treatment of other such figures (and Herod Antipas's stance towards John the Baptist) was no different

In addition, the account of Jesus's trial given in the Gospels has to be suspect, given the apologetic stance the early Church was forced to take with respect to the Roman authorities.

Yours faithfully, JAMES DOWLING, Sidney Sussex College Cambridge CB2 3HU. iod20@hermes.cam.ac.uk

From Professor Hyam Maccoby

Sir, Geoffrey Kelly writes (March 13), The mob which pressed Pilate to crucify Jesus must have been huge, determined and menacing to have infimidated him, as recorded in the Gospels." He does not consider the alternative (favoured by many scholars) that the incident was invented by the Gospel writers to shift the blame for the crucifixion from the Romans to the Jews.

the Roman Empire behind him and had no reason to fear a mob. Evidence from other sources shows him to have been ferociously decisive in dealing with any threat to Roman power. He needed no reminding that someone who claimed to be King of the Jews constituted such a threat. The authors of the Gospeis were concerned to dissociate their move-

ment from Jewish rebelliousness, in the aftermath of the great Jewish rebellion against Rome (AD66-70). This accounts for the pronounced pro-Roman and anti-Jewish bias of these writings. Yours faithfully, HYAM MACCOBY

(Visiting Professor), Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds LSŽ QTT. March 14.

From Mr Jonathan Went

Sir, Based upon the silence of Paul regarding Jesus, Mary and Pilate, and the unproven assumption that he wrote before the Gospels, David Lewis argues (letter, March 13) that the "Christian faith is founded in spiritual myth, not historical fact".

Some years ago you ran an article, "Eyewitness to Christ", and leading article (December 24, 1994) based on the work of Carsten Thiede, whose manuscript investigations of Matthew's Gospel led him to believe that it was earlier than most modern scholars thought.

Matthew is so full of Hebrew idiom that it makes little sense if dated after the Greek influx into the Church. The Reverend John Wenham (Redating Matthew, Mark and Luke, 1991) and Bishop John Robinson (Redating the New Testament, 1976) argued for dating Matthew around AD40, less than ten years after Jesus's death, and nearly ten years before Paul wrote. Paul wrote for the Church and did not repeat what the Gospel writers had already written.

But we need not take the word of modern academics alone, for the early Church in some 20 sources from the early 2nd century onwards attributes the first Gospei to Matthew, written

in finding volunteers to work in them.

around AD42, between eight and 15 years after Christ's ascension, and thus before Paul.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN WENT, 4 Crown Point Drive, Private Road, Bixley, Norwich, Norfolk NRI4 8RR. jonathanwent@teaching.telme.com

From Mr Peter Beale

Sir, David Lewis claims that "the earliest pre-Gospel Christian writings from St Paul and others . . . give no geographical or historical context to Jesus's life" and "never suggest that the earthly Jesus wrought miracles or gave any moral teachings"

He ought to turn to 1 Corinthians xv, in which Paul emphasises the historical importance of the greatest miracle of all, the resurrection of Christ. Or, to 1 Corinthians xi and Paul's account of the institution of the Last Supper, which gives the lie to what Mr Lewis calls "The fact that Paul and the other early Christians berray no knowledge of Jesus's Gospel adventures".

PETER BEALE, 47 High St, Bulford, Salisbury SP4 9DS.

From Mrs K. M. Jarvis

Sir, I question whether it is ethical to rewrite history in order to make it more acceptable to our generation. Jean Goldman suggests (letter, March 10) that Matthew xxvii, 25 -Then answered all the people and said, His blood be on us and on our children" - should be excised from the New Testament because it might be "offensive to Jews".

In Acts, Peter addresses the people of Jerusalem, repeating his theme: "That same Jesus whom ye have crucified ... " until they cried out "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts ii, 36 and 37).

Not, I submit, pretend that it never

Yours faithfully KATHLEEN JARVIS, 28 Penn Grove Road. Hereford HRI 1BH.

Library dispute

From the Chief Executive of The British Library

Sir, Contrary to your reports (later editions, March 8 and March 9). working conditions in the British Library's new book stores at St Pancras have not been the central issue in the dispute between the Library and some of its staff who are members of the Public and Commercial Services Union.

For staff to compare the new book stores with coalmines is simply ludicrous. They are bright, spacious and airy. You mention "extremes of temperature", but the point about the stores is that the temperature does not fluctuate, in order that the Library's collections may be preserved in the best possible environment. The stores are a massive improvement on the conditions to which staff and books were subjected in our former home in

The issues which led to the industrial action are the introduction of a new grading structure and more flexible working arrangements, which are needed to make proper use of the new opportunities at St Pancras. The dispute has arisen from opposition by less than 5 per cent of the library's I deeply regret that we have been

forced to close the reading rooms and the inconvenience this will cause to our readers. We were unable to give adequate warning because the union breached the undertaking it had given to provide seven days' notice before commencing any industrial action.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN LANG. Chief Executive, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, NWI 2DB.

Verdict on Bahrain

Report on Human Rights Practices

It is a country where "the denial of

the right of citizens to change their government; extrajudicial killings;

torture; arbitrary arrest; incommuni-

cado and prolonged detention; invol-

untary exile; infringement on citizens'

privacy rights ... [and] limitations on or the denial of the right to a fair

public trial" have led to the arrest and

torture of hundreds of people.

From Mr Alan Brooke

for 1998).

Sir, In his eulogy on the Emir of Bahrain (letter, March 12) the former British Ambassador, Sir Roger Tomkys, omits some important qualities of this warm and sincere friend" of Britain. The US State Department describes Bahrain as "a hereditary emirate with few democratic institutions and no university, but that doesn't count). political parties" (Bahrain Country

The Budget has deprived us of a large slice of our income. Fair enough.

Thank heaven for the Scottish elections. At least drowning our

March II.

European jingoism From Mr Jack Knight

Sir, Glenys Kinnock's letter on the

Yours sincerely.

59 Magdale, Honley

Huddersfield HD7 2LX.

A. BROOKE,

March 12.

US-EU trade dispute (March 10) is a fine example of European jingoism. The idea of the EU being the protector of small countries flies in the face of the facts.

From Haiti to Herzegovina, the US has proved itself to be the only guarantor of small countries' rights, while the EU, reliable only in its feebleness and indecision, has often passively stood by or contributed to the general mess.

Yours faithfully. JACK KNIGHT, 43 Bathurst Mews, W2 2SB.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Electronic voting From Mr Brian Shaw

Sir, I note with concern that London may be subject to the first experiment with electronic voting (report, March 12). In their efforts to simplify (and guide?) our choice. I hope the software writers will include the option for voters to register an abstention.

At present, we have to resort to the spoilt-paper approach. This is the only way that we can register the fact that we care deeply about the election (and do not wish to be classified as dead or indifferent by staying at home) but do not like any of the choices offered.

The closed-list system for European elections, for example, is an affront to democracy. I will be spoiling my paper on principle. The Lords lost their nerve in defending our democratic rights. It is now up to us.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN SHAW, 19 Oak Grove, Povoton. Cheshire SK12 IAD. March 12.

Buses to the back

From Mr B. J. Goodchild

Sir, Mrs Diana Robinson (letter, March 8) sees the unfavourable location proposed for the Millennium Dome bus stops compared with the car drop-off point as indicative of the low regard in which public transport is still held in Britain.

She is right. In how many towns is the bus station (if any) as close to the shopping centre as is the multistorey car park? How many stores or leisure. attractions providing free parking offer their customers discounts on bus tickets as well?

For that matter, where is the prize draw or competition which promises its winner, say, five years' free bus or train travel instead of a new car?

Yours faithfully, BARRY GOODCHILD. 36 Hinton Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9AU.

Bloomsbury and we had no difficulty NSPCC advertising

From the General Secretary of GME and others

Sir, On Tuesday evening many people will be shocked and moved to see the new television advertisements from the NSPCC on ITV. We were shocked and moved, too, when we first saw them. But we cannot hide from the

horrific reality of child abuse. Every week at least one child is killed in the UK through abuse or neglect; 35.000 children are officially considered to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm; and there are at least 110,000 adults living in this country who have been convicted of sex offences against children.

These statistics are shocking enough, a national scandal, but the reality is much worse. Most cases of

cruelty to children go unreported.

Like the NSPCC, we believe it is time for people — politicians, trade unionists, business people and all sections of society — to take action to end child cruelty. We must face up to our responsibility to children and make their care and protection everybody's business. Cruelty to children is unacceptable. It must stop.

Yours faithfully, JOHN EDMONDS, General Secretary, GMB. ANDREW ROWE, Vice-chair, All Party Parliamentary Children's Group.
DAVID SVENDSEN, Chairman, Microsoft UK Ltd. c/o National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 42 Curtain Road, ECZA 3NH. March 14.

Awash with wine

From Mr F. C. Peacock

Sir, Is it an absolute journalistic requirement that food, however delectable, must be "washed down with" wine, however noble (leading article, "Battle of the dinner plate", March

Even specialist "foodie" writers almost invariably use this barbaric imagery.

Yours faithfully, F. C. PEACOCK, Kensa, Church Street, Newlyn, Penzance, Cornwall TRI8 5JY. March 12

Ghost ships?

From Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Earlam

Sir, I am worried. I note from your Court Page announcements (March 12) that the Chairman of British Invisibles attended dinner with the Navy Board on March 11. Does this predict another, even more stringent, defence review?

I am. Sir. Your obedient servant, DAVID EARLAM, Sylvan House, Worthgate Place, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2QX.

Birthdays

Mr Matthew Bannister, chief execu-

tive, BBC Productions, 42: Miss

Teresa Berganza, mezzo-soprano. 64: Mr Bernardo Bertolucci, film

director, 58; the Right Rev Hugo de Waal, Bishop of Thetford, 64; Str Philip Foreman, mechanical engineer, 76; Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, 82; Sir Ewart Jones, FRS, chemist, 88; Sir Ambour Kontre, EDA formant Oraci.

Anthony Kenny, FBA, former President, British Academy, 68; Mr Leo McKern, actor, 79; Miss Georgina Nayler, former director, Pilgrim

Trust, 40; Miss Kate Nelligan.

actress, 48; Sir Roger Norrington, conductor, 65; Mr Richard G.

Puttick, former chairman, Taylor Woodrow, 83; Miss Bridget Rowe,

former managing director and Edi-

tor, Sunday Mirror and managing

director, The People, 49; Mr John Watts, racehorse trainer, 57.

Benenden School is pleased to announce the following Scholar-

(Academic). Upper School Scholumbigs. Clara. Cheong. (Academic). Yvetie. Chin. (Academic). Marina. Clement. (Academic). Marina. Clement. (Academic). Hearn Georgiadis (Academic). Elementine Harvey Academic). Victoria. Law (Academic). Akitalie. Lee (Vendemic). Francesca. Macine, Akitalie. Lee (Vendemic). Francesca. Macine. (Academic). Patralle Menstviristivity (Academic). Marina Motany (Art). Orment Narapro-ell Academic). Natur. Panishmalia (Art). Ahigail Smart. (Academic). Caryrr Wujenso.

energy Upper School Scholasship ara Cheong (Music), colgo Technology Scholarship

(Pappiewick). Music Eskibilione N.G.C. Arratoon (Orley

music Estatutous: N.G.C. Arrations (Orleg-Parto): M.H. Symes-Thompson (Edge-Grove): C. Wheen (Erasabletye): H.W. -Dickinson (Aysparth): Art Scholandin: D.E. Paske (The Dragon). Art Establishme: T.F.W. Wright (Orley-Parts): T. Outer-Edmands (Furleigh School).

Mr Varian Oskanian, Armeni

Foreign Minister, was the speaker at a meeting of the Royal Institute

of International Affairs beld vester

Meeting

SEFTON - March 12th at St

SEFTON - March 12th at St. Johns Hospice, Lancaster, Charlotte Lella aged 65 years of Cumbria, dearly loved wife of Michael and mother of Philip, Patrick and Christopher. Funeral service and Interment at Holy Trinity Church, Winster on Priday 19th March at 2.00pm. Funnity flowers only and

March at Zunjan. Family flowers only and donations if so desired to St. Johns Hospice or Cancer Research c/o A. G. Clarke, The Ashes, Cartmel Fell, Grange-on-Sends, LA11 6NU. Tel 015305 31481.

SORBY - (Née Mallet) Kate
- Peacefully at home in
Argestina, on 13th March.
Widow of Major Robert
Borby MRE for nerly of
the Indian Cavairy.
Adored mother of Maxine,
Smoky, Roberta, Mark and
grandmenther of Victoria
and Robert. Cremation
service in Neuguen.
Memorial service in
England to be emounced
in this column. Doustions
if desired to The
Schizophrenia Association
of Great Britain,

of Great Britain,

of Great Strain, International Schizophrenia Centre, Bryn Hyfryd, The Crescent, Bangor, Gwynadd LL57 2AG.

Dune Tow Church. Enquiries to J&M Humphris Funeral Directors (01295) 285-524.

WARD - Bertin Elizabeth aged 93 years in hospital in Noriolk, formerly of Chulfout 54 Giles, Buckinghamshire. Wile of the late Arthur Harry, mother of Anne (dec'd) grandmother of Andrew, Christopher, Clenn and

WARD - Bertha Elizabeth

Harrow School

School news

Benenden School

today



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 15: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning departed RAF Northolt for Nice Airport, France and later arrived in Monaco. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis is

in attendance. The Duke of Edinburgh today attended a Lunch with His Serene Highess The Sovereign Prince of Monaco at the Palace of Monaco. His Royal Highness, Founder

and Chairman of the International Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this evening attended a Reception at The Casino and a Dinner at the Hotel de Paris.

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 15: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Falkland Islands Community School.

His Royal Highness later visited the Falklands Islands' Agricultural Centre and then toured the Fisheries Protection Vessel Dorada be-fore attending a luncheon at the Stanley Seaman's Centre. tanley Seaman's Centre.

This afternoon His Royal High-

ness visited Mount Longdon, where he laid wreaths at the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment The Prince of Wales afterwards visited Fitzroy Cove where he laid

wreaths at the memorials to the Welsh Guards and RFAs, Sir Tristram and Sir Galahad. His Royal Highness later visited HMS Dumbarton Castle. Subsequently His Royal Highness visited RAF Mount Pleasant where he toured the resident military units and met personnel and their

The Prince of Wales this evening departed by air for the United

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 15: The Duke of York, Patron. The London Contempo-rary Dance Trust, attended a dinner at The Place, London WCL **BUCKINGHAM PALACE** March 15: The Princess Royal today carried out the following engage-ments in Auckland, New Zealand.

BIRTHS: Pieter Hooft, poet, Am-

astronomer, Hanover, Germany, 1750; James Madison, 4th American President 1809-17, Port Con-

way, Virginia, 1751; George Ohm.

physicist, Erlanger, Germany, 1787.

DEATHS: Alexander III, King of Scotland 1249-86, Burmisland,

Fyfe, 1236; Giovanni Pergolesi,

composer, Pozzuoli, Italy, 1736; Jean Baptiste Rousseau, poet, Brus-

els, 1741; Robert Surtees, novelist,

illustrator, Menton, 1898; John

James Macleod, physiologist, pioneer of insulin, Nobel laureate

Brighton, 1864; Aubrey Beardsley

Anniversaries

1923. Aberdeen, 1935: Sir Austen Chamberlain, Foreign Secretary 1924-29, Nobel peace laureate, 1925, London, 1937; Selma Lager-lof, novelist, Nobel laureate 1909,

established at West Point, 1802.

Her Royal Highness this morn-ing attended a St John Ambulance Cadets Parade and display, Aotea Square, Auckland. The Princess Royal later visited

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended a tribute to Massey High School, Massey on behalf of Save the Children Fund New Zealand. The Princess Royal, President, RedR — Engineers for Disaster

Relief, later met with RedR representatives at the Institute of Profes-Her Royal Highness subsequent-ly visited America's Cup Village, and met Team New Zealand.

The Princess Royal this evening mended the British-New Zealand Trades Council and Link Foundation Reception at the Northern Club, 19 Princes Street, Auckland.

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 15: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master, The Order of Saint Michael Master, The Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, this morning attended an Officers' Meeting at Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire.
His Royal Highness, Chancel-hor, University of Surrey, this evening attended the Business Advisory Group dinner at Brook's

Club, St James Street, London.

Royal engagements The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. Prince Edward, patron, London Mozart Players, will attend a concert and dinner at St James's Palace at 7.00 to mark the orchestra's 50th amiversary.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit the Duke of Gloucester will visit

the Royal Mint, Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan at 11.00; and, as Grand Prior, Order of St John, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance Wales, will visit Tredegar House, Gwent, at 12.45. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will visit Clytha Primacelebration service for the installa-Cathedral, Gwent, at 2.40.

The American Military Academy The first liquid-propelled rocket was launched by Dr Robert Goddard, an American physicist, 1926. Hitler renounced Treaty of Versailles



Michael Bailey and John Glithero on their "archaeological exploration" of the workings of Stephenson's Rocket

Stephenson's Rocket 'excavated'

By PAUL WILKINSON NORTH WEST CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL archaeologists are conducting a three-month "dig" on one of the earliest steam locomotives. George Stephenson's Rocket, 170 years old this year, is being dismantled and rebuilt by Michael Bailey and John Glithero,

experts in railway engineering, to see how the technology of the period evolved.

"Things were developing then as fast as computer technology does today when things have barely arrived in the shops and they are already old hat," Mr Bailey said. "The Rocket was already obsolete by the time it went into service in September 1830 on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. "It had been built just 11 months earlier

for the Rainhill trials to see which locomotive should operate the line but design had already moved on by the time it came into use. Locomotives being built by then were already far superior in power and efficiency. But the line's

investment, so it went through a series of refits to keep it up to scratch. It will be those things that we will be looking at, to see how the technology evolved.

"Sadly for the Rocket it did not last long. In early 1837 it was sold off to the Earl of Carlisle to work in his collieries in Cumberland and it was retired into near-oblivion in 1840." Rocket is famous as being involved in the first fatal railway accident when, on the opening day of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, it ran over and

killed William Huskisson, MP, a promot-er of the line and a former President of the Board of Trade. It is less well known for also being involved five weeks later in the first recorded death of a trainspotter: Henry

Hunter, a Manchester publican who had become fascinated with steam power. He had hitched a ride and was thrown off when a tender axie broke. Mr Bailey said: "The company's engineers took

owners had spent £500 on the locomotive advantage of the Rocker's return for and they wanted to get the benefit of their repairs to make improvements to the engine little more than a month after it had entered service. That indicates how

"We will be studying how things were put together and why they changed them. We hope to publish all our findings later this year." A special camera will let them safely explore the train's inner workings. Rocket, on display at the National Railway Museum, in York, is a mere shadow of Stephenson's creation. Refits to the smokebox and valves altered the Scholarships: S-D.G. Liddle (Orley Farm)

1. Wigley (Maidwell Halls: A.G.E. Burges (Lockers Paris): A.J.S. Sharp (Milhourn Lodge; T.J.B. Park (Nwykord School).

Balabilione: M.H. Synnes-Thompson (Edge Grove): L. Oldfield (Caldicott; A. Raghal (Pupplewick): P.H. Patel (Northment)

School). original shape significantly and much of its copper and brasswork was stripped for scrap when it was retired in 1840. A half-hearted attempt to restore it for the 1851 Great Exhibition petered out when an intact rival was found and in 1862 it was rescued from obscurity by the predecessor of the Science Museum Mr Bailey said: "It would be an

interesting project to see it restored to its original condition but that it not what we are doing."

| LYALL GRANT - On 12th

iyall Grant - On 12th
March, Dougles Gavin
Lyall Grant, loved inther
of Nicholas and Flons,
dear brother of Daphne,
Jane and Susan, Grateful
thanks to the wonderful
staff of The Royal British
Legion Home, Mais House
Bezhill for their
friendship and care.

MARSHAM - Lady Anne Rhoda, aged 30 years, peacefully in Norfolk on March 18th 1999, sister of the Earl of Romney. Puneral at St Marys Church, Rougham on Wednesday March 17th at

MUSGRAVE - Elizabeth (née Pinckney) formerly Waldron, On 11th March at Nother Place Nursing Hone, Kerwick, devoted and much loved wife of the late Value Vice Wife of the

and much joved wife of the late John Ring Musprava, after a long illness fought bravely and with great dignity. Hetch loved by her four some and extended family. Cremation on Friday 19th March at 12.40pm at Carliale Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Parkinson's Disease Society co Jack

Disease Society c/o Jack Robinson Undertaker, 27 High Brightm, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 OTE.

PHILIPS - Robert John (Bob) Chartered Architect, egad 65. Loving husband of Shirley and much leved father and friend of Mark, Christine, Alison and Ian. Funeral at Cauford Crematorium, Westbury-on-Tryn, Bristol on March 17th at 1.30 pm. All friends welcome.

POTTER - Barbara Purcell on March 10th 1999, much loved mother and grandmother. Enquiries to Bowley Financi Service (01273) 841711.

RICHE-EVANS – Herbert of St Margarets died March 12th aged 92 peacefully after a short illness. Riche will be

saver mines. spins will be greatly mined by his family and many friends. No services will be held. Donations to Amnesty International.

MGBY - Sir Hugh John Macbeth pencabilly on Sunday March 14th. Much loved father of Anthony, Hugh, Jamie and Stave and devoted grandfather. All enquiries to Hooley Watson and Buckley (01625) 422734.

SEAGRAM - Shelia
Stephanie Congrese.
Peccefully et Safishury on
13th March, 1999 nged 92
years. Widow of Tom Ogie
Seagram, formerly of
Wylys. Funeral Service on
Friday 19th March at
10.20am at Salisbury
Crematorium. No flowers
but donetions direct to a
charity of choice for
animals. Enquiries to I.N.
Newman-Led., 01722
413136.

The Rev John Williams, Curate Potters Bar (St Albans): has been appointed Curate, Bishop's Stori-

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Barron and Miss E.S. Hallergard Adam, son of Derek and Rosemary Barron, and Susanne, daughter of Sandra and Krister Hallergard, announce their engagement.

Mr R.A. Collins and Miss A.R. Royall The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Paul Collins, of Church Parm.
Lilbourne, Warwickshire, and
Anna, daughter of District Judge and Mrs Martyn Royall, of Scarning, Norfolk.

Mr C.R. Mason Hornby and Miss CJ. Reid
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of the late Mr Anthony Mason-Hornby, and of Mrs Mason-Hornby, of Daiton Hall, Westmorland, and Cressida, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Reid, of Maplesden, East Sussex. Mr R.D.C. Thurner

and Miss S. Evans and MESS S. EVENS
The engagement is announced between Robert, som of Mr Michael Thurner and Mrs Christine Thurner, of Limeton. Surrey, and Sian, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Evans. Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

Marriage Mr A.J. Bonner and Mrs A.M.J. Barry

Ship Awards:
Lover School Scholarchipe
Arran Corday, (The Hearsted Scholarchip)
Walthamstow Hall Junior School Jessica
Corless (The Trust Music School Jessica
Corless (The Trust Music School Jessica
Corless (The Hearsted Scholarchip) Hilden
Grange School Victoria McArdle (The
Rounders' Scholarchip) Mardhorough
House School Coorgina Robertson (The
Bird Scholarship) Rowan Preparatory
School Tara Robinson (The Hindle Trust
Music Schoolarship) Dubvich Preparatory
School: Annabel Wasson (The Rounders'
Scholarship) Dubvich Preparatory
School The Scholarship Scholarship Watson
The Scholarship) Dubvich Preparatory School.
The Scholarship Dubvich Preparatory School. The marriage took place quietly at St Brigid's Church, Kilbride, Co Wicklow, between Mr Alan Bonner, of Widdington, Essex, and Mrs Aveen Barry, of Dublin and

Lecture

The Royal Academy of Engineering Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng, FRS, President of The Royal FRS, President of the koyal Academy of Engineering, presided at the 1999 Lloyd's Register Lecture held last night at I Great George Street, London, SWI. The guest speaker was Mr William O'Neil. CM. FEng. Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization of the I bind Maritime organization of the I bind Maritime organization of the I bind Maritime authorism. tion of the United Nations, who spoke on "Safety at Sea — Engineer-

Symposium

Wilson Campbell Memorial A symposium to mark the end of the series of annual lectures in memory of Wilson Campbell was held yesterday at Newcastle upon Tyne University. Mr John Ham-mill, chairman of the memorial lectures committee, presided. Mr Roger Boissier, Professor Paul Braiden, Professor Ian Fells, Professor John Chesshire, Mr. John Gaskeil and Mr. Mattohn Kennedy also spoke

Luncheon

Rotary Club of London Mr John Davey was the speaker at a kuncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Mr John Buchanan, president, was in the chair.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

GRAVEL - David William on
Thursday 11th March 1999,
much loved husband of
Cecil and father of James,
Oliver, Eleanor and
Humphrey, brother to
Primrose Wilson and
grandfather of 14. Private
cremation followed by
Service of Thankagiving at
St Mary's, Leigh, Kent at
2.30pm on Monday 22nd
March, No flowers.
Donations if wished to The
Stroka Association.
Enguiries, Francis

TRADE; 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands. Psalm 16.5 (GNB).

ARMOLD - On March 13th in Oxford, to Jacqui and David, a daughter, Darcey

BIRTHS

BEAUDUM - On March 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Natasia (Degrick) and Stephane, a deughter, Tatiana, a sister for Sebastien.

BEVACQUA - On March 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Amina and Richard, a

BROUGHTON - To Nicola (née Perdon) and Mici son, Ewan Ross, in London on March 11th 1999. Despest heartfelt thanks to the doctors, midwives, nurses and all staff at King's College

BROWN - On March 4th to ADMS - On March 4th to Anns (née Harris) and Richard, a daughter, Rosemary Anne, a sister for George, Eleanor and Edward.

EUSEERS - To Sharon (née White) and John, a delightful son, Oliver Daniel, born 27th January 1999. A brother for James

DAUGAARD - On March 14th at The Portland Hospital. to Katrin and Lars, a son, Christian Xavier, a brother for Lars Phillip.

DEXON - On March 5th, to

DRYER - On March 10th 1999 at The Portland Hospital, to Lucy (née Pincus) and Darren, a son, Charles

FRANKS - On March 13th to Wills (not Balfour) and George, a son, Arthur. FRASER - On 13th March to James and Stephanie (née Struthers), a daughter, Iona Elizabeth.

Andy, a daughter, Katina Rhiannon Emmley, a sister for Diccon and Danica.

GARDNER - On March 11th, to Felicity (nde Newbold) and Adrian, a son, George Richard James, a brother for Camilla, Antonia and

GOVETT - On March 11th at BAKEH WEBRAHAM - Oz HAYWARD - On 9th March, to Sue (née Mose) and Edmund, a son, William JAMES - On March 13th 1999 in Cranleigh, to Anneli (née Willcox) and

ARCHER - General Sir John in his 76th year suddenly on Friday 12th March 1999. Dearly leved husband of Marie for 48 years, an inspiration to his two som Jeremy and Smon, a tender father-in-law to Amanda and Nicki and an adoring grandfather to Sebastian. Charlotte and Georgins. He will be sorely missed both by the family and his many friends. The funeral will take place at 10.45 am on Friday 19th March at All Sainty, Brankome Park, Poole and will be followed by a private committal. Any donations would be welcomed by either two of his treastrad projects. The Military Museum of Devon & Dornet, The Keep.

Dorchester DT1 1RN (01305 284 086) or The Gurkha Welfare Trust, 88 Baker Street, London Will 2AE (0171 707 1925). There will be a memorial service later.

AFBASTROSS - Bamburgh.
The Rt Hon Ledy Maria
Theresa passed away
peacefully at The Royal
Free Hospital, Hampstead
London on 15th March
1939. Private cremention.
Memorial details inter.

12th March 1999 pescefully at home Joyce Katharine Baker Wilbraham MBE, much Wilbraham MBE, much loved sunt and greet-sunt, in her 97th year. Funeral Monday 22nd March 12 neon at Christ Churth. Chelses, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to REFRESH, St Thouser Bospital, London SE1 7EH.

in Warsaw, to Annie (née Molesworth-St.Anbyn) and Peter, a son, Adam Tadeum Anthony.

MATABLE - On March 10th st The Portland Hospital, to Vanessa (née Macdonald-Smith) and Stephen, a daughter, Imogen, a sister for Natasha and Sam.

STALKER - On 8th March 1999 at the Matilda Hospital in Hong Kong to Patry (née Watters) and Authony, a son, Tohy Patrick Anthony, a brother for Sophie and Sasha.

ViCKERS - On March 12th 1998 in Hampehire, to Elizabeth (née Vickers) and Hugo, a son, Arthur Hugo Blyth.

DEATHS

Desiry loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Requism Mass at the Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Philip Nert, Uckfield date to be arranged.
Family Rowers only.
Donations, if desired, for the library fund, Loreto Couvent Nyakato School, Tamakinis (cheques to 'Cooper & Son').
Donations and funeral enquiries to Cooper & Son', Uckfield (01825) 783 783.
BREWER - Vivien Jayne, aged 58, Pascefully at the Marie Curie Hospice, Caterham, on the afternoon of the 12th March. Much loved wife of Marc and mother of Charles and Catherine. She will be deeply missed. Funeral service to be held at the Sarrey and Sussex Cremstorium, Balcombe Road, Crawley, at 2.30pm on Friday 19th March. Pamily Howers only plesse, donations to the Marie Curie Hospice or R.N.L. c/o Stomenson Funeral Service, Doren Court, Reigate Road, Redill, Survey, REI 6AZ.

BIRTHS NSKI – On 11th March

MASTRANGELO - On March 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Sandra and Raiph, a son, Dominic

annousese.

80ASE - Alice Mary,
pescefully on 11th March,
aged 85. Widow of Arthur.
Dearly loved mother,
grandmother and great-

Redhill, Surrey, RH1 6AZ.

BROWNFIGG - Harbert

Annesiey (Bertie) passed
away unempectedly but
pescafully on March 9th.
He will be sadly mined by
his wife June, his
daughters Gay and Melita
and his many dear friends.

BURRHIL - Theodors Stunley
Eurrell OSE, hashand of
Doveen and father of Kate,
on March 12th. Rattred
National Park Officer for
the Peak District National
Park. Private cremation.
Donations if desired to
The Parkinson's Disease
Society, Bath Branch, c/o
74 Pickwick Road.
Corsham, SN13 9DB, tel:
(01249) 715860. BUXTON - On March 12th

(01249) 715860.

1999, peacefully at Bolton Hospics, Bernard aged 71 years, loving father of Sarah. All enquires to Co-operative Funeral Service Bolton, tai 61204 307151.

Marbacka, Sweden, 1940; William Henry Beveridge, Baron Beveridge, pioneer of social security,

and introduced conscription, 1935. The Queen opened the new London Bridge, 1973.

Church news

The Rev Doreen Saxon, NSM, Tettenhall Wood Christ Church (Lichfield): to be NSM with special responsibility for Tettenhall Wood, Castleforth The Good Shepherd The Rev Michael St John-Chan-

nell, Vicar, Staines St Mary and St

BATES - His Honour Stewart | CAYZER - On 13th March

CAYZER - On 13th March
peacefully at home in
Palm Beach, Plorida,
Major Haroid Stanley
Cayzer 11th Hussars
(P.A.O.) in the loving care
of Beatrice his devoted
wife for 28 years. Funeral
March 20th 11 am St
Edward's Church, Palm
Beach.

COOK - On March 14th peacefully in Newland House Residential Home, Witney, Elsie Ida May in her 10th unter formers of

Witney. Elsie Ida May in her 101st year, formerly of Plumstead, London SE 18. Aunt of Joan Darlow of East End, North Leigh, Oxon, Deaply loved by her family and treasured by her friends. All enquiries to E Taylor and Son F/D tel 01993 842421.

DARLING-on Thursday 11th March 1998 Terence of Cuckfield, West Sussex. Very dearly loved husband of Tippy and proud and loving father of Mark, Rory and Giles. Service of thanksgiving on Friday 19th March at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield at 12 noon. Plesse no flowers but if you wish donations payable to ENLI c/o P & S Gallagher, Fraser House, Triangle Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4HW. Tel 01444 451168.

DARLOW - See Cook.

DONIGER - Joseph aged 88 on March 14th, widower of Renée, and much loved father of Caroline Clegg and Parnels Dixon, and grandfather of Daniel, Lionel, Haurist and Jack. Funeral at Patney Vale Cremetorium on Monday 22nd March at 12-30pm. No flowers, but donations if desired, to Marie Carie Cancer Care 17 Gresvenor Crecent, London SWIX 7XZ.

DÖNY de JORAHÁZA – Augusta on March 11th in London agad 90, dearly loved monther of Elizabeth Tempis-Richards, grandmother of Nicholes and Alexandra and great-grandmother of Harry and Alica, William, Augusta and Charlotta, Pamily funeral.

FLETCHER - Nancy Christine (Christine Glanville) on 1st March after a short illness. Greatly missed by her family and friends. Crematorium, Amerakam on Friday 19th March at 11.30 am. Family flowers only places.

BATES - His Honour Stewart
Taverner Bates Q.C.
peacefully on March 15th
1999 after years of Illness
borne with courage and
humour aged 72.
Cherished companion for
fifty years of Anne,
beloved of his children
Chariotte, Juliet, Alestair,
Arabella, Rebecca and
Batmaby, and his eight

Arabella, Robecca and
Barnaby, and his eight
grandchildren. Funeral
Service at St. John's,
Housington on Friday, 19th
March at 3.30 pm followed
by private interment.
Family flowers only, but
donations in Heu to
Horsington Pariah Church
Restoration Fund or Seve
the Children (Sherborne
Branch) c/o Mr Harold
Miles, Funeral Director,
Winton Cottage, South
Cadbury, Somerset (tel:
01963 440367). Memorial
Service in London to be
announced.

eter (London): to be Vicar Cirencester St John the Baptist

in-Charge, Jersey St Andrew (Win-

The Rev Clive Styles, Team Vicar, Wednesfield St Augustine and St Chad (Lichfield): to be Rector, Ashwellthorpe, Forncett, Fundenhall, Hapton, Tacolneston and Wreningham (Norwich).
The Rev Michael Taylor, Priest-

Enquiries, Francis Chappell and Sons, 27 London Road, Sevenosi 01732 450203.

HAMDS - On March 11th
1999 very suddenly in
hospital sereny Gyles
Hangrave aged 47 years.
Dearly beloved husband
of Margaret, loving son of
Daphne and Hargrave
Hands, Funeral Service at
St Margaret Church,
Hardley, Norfolk on
Wednesday 17th March
1999 at 1 pm. Flowers or
donations if desired for
Hardley Church
Restoration Fund and
cheques made payable to
Hardley P.C.C. may be
sent to John Brown
Puneral Services, 102
North Walsham Roed,
Norwich, Norfolk NES
700 pleases.

KARDING - George William, late of the Parachute

late of the Parachute Regiment Cyprus and Suez, died after a abort diness on 13th March. Funetal at Selvation Army

Hell, Willingham, Cambridgeshire at 12 noos on Friday 19th March.

HARRES - Lieut General Sir Inn (Tommy) KBE, CBE, CB, DSO, died in his 88th year on March 12th after a short illness borne as he had lived quietly and with courage; beloved husband of Anne, and grandisther of Georgina, Catherine, Julian and Christien, Puteral service at the Cashel, Co. Tipperary Church of Ireland Cathedral at 11.30am on Tuesday, the 16th March, No flowers please, but denstions to the Royal Ulster Rilles Benevolant Fund, 6 Waring Street,

Fund, 6 Waring Street, Belfast, Details of Mamorial service to be

HAY - Elizabeth (née Childe) widow of Alan. Died peacefully on 12th March.

Hall - Geoffrey Esmond
Benedict at home on 13th
March 1989 aged 75. Mach
loved husband of Marjorie
and father of Robert,
Virginia and Justin.
Requiem Mass at The Holy
Redeemer, Upper Church:
Read, Hollington, St
Leonards on Sea at noon
on Friday 19th March.
Committed at Hastings
Committed at Hastings
Committed at Leonards.

The Rev Philip Tait, Priest-in-Charge, Woodhorn w. Newbiggin-by-the-Sea (Newcastle): has been appointed Chaplain, HMP Wolds (York).

same benefice.

chester): has been appointed Vicar,

The Rev Barbara Way, Director of Ministry and Training (Canter-busy): has been appointed Local

Appeal (cheques payable to Frensham PCC) c/o Thorne-Laggett, Petersfield Road, Whitshill, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9AR.

HOPE-Sir Peter KCMG.,
TD. died pescefully at
King Zdward VII Hospital
on 12th March 1998 aged
86 years. Hunband of
Hazel, father of Jeremy,
Adrian and (late) Richard.
Private funeral to take
place at Midhurst R.C.
Church on Thursday 18th
March at 11.30am followed
by burial in Midhurst
(private family savvice at
graveside). Family flowers
only but donations if
desired to British
Association Of The
Sovereiga Mithary Order
of Malta (BASMGM) or the
Hospital of St John & St
Elizabeth, c/o L.F. Lintott
and Son, North Street,
Midhurst GU29 9DG.
01720 \$13264.

HRMILEY - John Francis
Burra aged 91 on 11th
March 1999. Dearly loved
by Rosemary and his
family. Funsaria at \$t.
March 2009. Boxwell on
Friday 19th March at
2.30pm. No flowers.
Dountions if desired to
Boxwell Church
Charitable Trust c/o
Cowley & Son Ltd,
Triangle House, 62
Victoris Road, Cirencester,
Glos GL7 1ES. Telephone
01236 653298.

KENMAPD - Robert Adam
(Bob) - on March 13th 1999
peacefully at Wolfston
Manor, Chermineter.
Brother of Pameis and
Colin, foudly remembered
husband of Mary and
father of Elizabeth and
Robin. Private cremation.

KERT - Phoebe Moffat, aged 25, suddenly on 13th March in Melbourne, heloved and beautiful daughter of Prue Byng. A service of thankagiving to

LEBUS - Christina, aged 44, adored wife of Tun and mother of David, died pesceitly at home on 13th March after an indomitable struggle against cancer. Family funeral to be followed in April by a Service of Thankagiving, No flowers but donations, if wished, to WellBelng, 27 Sussex. Place. Regent's Park.

The Rev Dr Samuel Wells Priest-in-Charge, Earlham St Eliza-beth (Norwich): to be also Rural Dean of Norwich South (same

Ministry Adviser (same diocese).

ford St Michael (same diocese).

day at Chatham House.

cremation. Thunhagiving Survice at St George's, Preshuta, Mariborough, Witabire at 12.30pm on Friday the 19th of March. Gifts in his memory to the Church Mission Society.

IN MEMORIAM -WHEATLEY PRICE - Thomas.
Peacefully on March 14th
1999 in his 99th year.
Beloved husband of the
late Con, dearly loved
father of Michael, Ruth
and John, dear father - Inlaw of Diama, Michael and
Jean and proud
grandfather to his nine
grandchildren and
eightben grastgrandchildren. Private
cranation. Thumbagiving
Service at St George's. PRIVATE` CRACKHELL - In ever loving memory of Freda, dearly beloved first wife of Desmond and mother of Valerie, Vivienne, Roger and Victor, who passed away on March 16th 1980. Our brave, hrave wee one now safe in the arms of God.

SMITH - Betty J, (née Eobertson), and Rossmand. Always remembered, especially today. Ian and the family.

WARD-THOMAS - On 16th March 1995, our dearly beloved daughter Kitty, always in our hearts. Ma and Pa.

ACCESS HEXETS World Wide Sporting Breats, Yop West End Shows & Pop Camperts 0171 821 4616 AR Ared

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WHITMARRH - John
Marshall of Richards
Castle, near Ludlow. On
9th March peacefully in
his 90th year. Widower of
Betty, much loved father,
father-in-law, grandisther
and great-grandisther.
Doustloos to A. Hoskins &
Son, (01584) 872048. SERVICES PLUMP PARTIES Surfaced Dating Agency. If you are plants or juster a plants persear sing 01,352 715509

VIDEO Regulard of Everyson, 1930s munical with James Mar-thone. Tel 01868 558 645 TICKETS FOR SALE

WOODROW - Jocalyn passed away on 10th March 1999 after a bravely fought illness. She will be sadly missed by her loying father Arthur, devoted sone James and William and much loved grandchaughters Rebecca and Lucy, family and friands. The funeral service will take place at Palham St Mary Church on Thursday 18th March at 12 noon, followed by cremation at 5t Fatths Crematorism at 1.30pm. All friends are invited to either or both services. Flowers or donations if desired for Leuhamila Research Pund, cylo Rackhams Funeral Servica, Stanley Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP 22 3BN. STANBURY - Philip, adored father of Marlene, Penny and Anthony, passed sway peacefully at home on Sunday March 14th. Ha will be greatly missed by his sister Diana, daughterin-law Elizabeth, some-in-law Brian and Broce and by all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The funeral will take place today, Tuesday March 16th 4 pm at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane.

STEMART - Phyllis Mary (nate Cave). At Peobles on 12th March 1989, Phyllis, widow of John Philip Stewart, MD, FRCSE (Ed). Requises Mass at St. Josephi E.C. Church, Rosetta Road, Peobles at 10,30cm on Friday 19th March followed by private cremation, No flowers. YORK - Cirristopher in his 90th year: Loving husband of Pauline and much loved father of Edward, Caroline, Loube and Mary, grandfather and great-grandfather. Private family inneral. Memorial service in All Saints Church, Long Murston at 2,00pm Fridsy 19th March. No flowers piesse. VETCH - James Wallson - dearly beloved lumband of Patricia and father of Allster and John, grandfather of Jessica and Hamish. Peacefully at home on 13th March. Funeral service Friday, 19th March, 1.1.30 am at Duns Tow Church.

> MEMORIAL SERVICES HARRISON - Capt F. V. Harrhon R.N. (retd). A Thankagiving Service will take place at St. Marys, Bourne Street, SW1, on May 11th at 12 noon.

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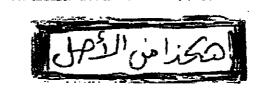
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FIGHTS TORY







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Garson Kamin, playwright and Hollywood director and screenwriter, died on March 13 aged 86. He was born on November 24, 1912.

prolific writer and director who was best known for Born Yesterday, Garson Kanin worked his way up through showbusiness, and in fifty years saw almost every aspect, from touring theatre to Hollywood stardom. He did everything from playing a comedy stooge to writing a new English libretto for Die Fledermaus, and was involved with several Oscar-winning films. As secretary of the Directors Guild during the 1950s, he also stood up for some in the industry against the bullying tactics of Senator McCarthy.

By his own account, he kept trying to write serious drama but found that it turned out funny. At worst this could mean merely facetions, and Kanin had his share of withering reviews, including one that spoke of sitting in a state of "numbed horror" through a piece of "theatrical malpractice"

In all he wrote 32 plays, worked on 29 films and wrote 14 books, including memoirs of friends such as Somerset Maugham. He was a prolific short-story writer, his name cropping up everywhere from Good Housekeeping to Play-boy, and some of his tales were ater relevised. He said that he became ill if he was deprived of work for three days.

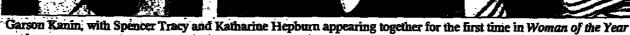
Garson Kanin was virtually born into the cinema, but his family was only on the bottom rung: his father ran a New York picture house. Talent and application were needed to propel him up the ladder, and Kanin found that entertainment could be a bitchy business, but he never lost his boyish love of a good storyline

and a good show. He left school at 16 during the Depression and set out to be a musician. Working as a stock boy and messenger during the day. he played clarinet and honky-tonk saxophone at night. Briefly, he led his own band, Garson Kay and the Red Peppers, but he was always ambitious to extend his range and repertoire. In the old-fashioned way of the American immigrant family, he wanted to better himself. For two years he was a keen

student at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and this led to his first small part, as Tommy Deal in the play Little Ot Boy in 1933. Next he heard about auditions for a part paying \$60 a week in Ladies Money, by the well established actor, writer, director and producer George Abbott. The part of Red required red hair, which Kanin didn't have - but he did have a friend prepared to lend him the money to have his dyed. Abbott took to him, and employed him as an assistant, which meant directing travelling companies in shows such as Three Men on a Horse and Boy Meets Girl. He also had an opportunity to direct







on Broadway - and fluffed it. But when still only 23. Kanin was summoned to Hollywood by Sam Goldwyn, who had heard that he was a very clever genius" and took him on without quite saying what for. One of Kanin's tasks was to come up with Goldwynisms for the studio's press office, such as "In two words, impossible". He later revealed that the quip department was the true source of the lines "a verbal contract is not worth the paper it is written on," and "anyone who sees a psychia-trist ought to have his head examined". Decades later Kanin further elaborated the Goldwyn legend, and others, in books and a television

wasted material, even if it was sometimes spun from secondhand threads.

Running errands on the set of Hitch Your Wagon did not quash the young Kanin's en-thusiasm to direct. He studied every aspect of the movies, analysing them for strengths and techniques, and he venerated the men who made them. "I'd rather be Frank Capra than God," he said. "If there is a Frank Capra."

He also became a lifelong friend of Thornton Wilder, who at first was flabbergasted by his ignorance and urged him to meet as many famous people as possible and write down what they said. Later it was Wilder who encouraged Kanin to write for the stage.

Frustrated at not having a proper job, Kanin left Goldwyn - making sure to remain on good terms - and moved to RKO Radio, where his first directing assignment was A Man to Remember (1938). In the same year he won plaudits for The Great Man Votes,

with John Barrymore. The films he made before America entered the war were remarkable for famous pairings. Bachelor Mother in 1939 boasted both David Niven and Ginger Rogers (whom Kanin directed again in 1941 in Tom, Dick and Harry, and My Favorite Wife in 1940 starred Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. That year's They Knew What They Wanted brought togeth-er Carole Lombard and the notoriously difficult Charles Laughton - to critical acclaim.

Kanin himself was half of a fruitful if sparring partnership, for five of his scripts were written in collaboration with his wife of 43 years, the actress Ruth Gordon, whom he married in 1942.

That was the year he helped to write Woman of the Year, though the officially credited writers - who took an Oscar were his brother Michael Kanin and Ring Lardner Jr. A gentle comedy about a sports columnist who struggles to keep up with his politically ambitious wife, the film was notable for bringing together Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn, who were to co-star

in a number of films in the 1940s and 1950s (and were later the subject of an imperceptive memoir by Kanin). Perhaps the best of these films was Adam's Rib (1949), written by Kanin and his wife, who were nominated for an Oscar.

During the war Kanin served as an officer in a US. Army film unit, beginning with training films in New Jersey. He was then posted to London to make a joint produc-tion with the British about the Allied invasion of Europe, from D-Day to the fall of Berlin. The True Glory, which he directed with Carol Reed. used newsreel footage and a strong patriotic commentary to impressive effect, and was much appreciated by the critics. It won the Oscar for best documentary in 1945, and was named Best Film by the National Board of Review.

Living at Claridges with buzz-bombs falling all around. Kanin had nothing to do in the evenings, so to stop himself drinking too much he began to write a serious film about a sleazeball in Washington with a string of mistresses. However, he soon realised that censorship would make it impossible to film -- "we're talking about a time when kisses used to be timed with a stopwatch" - so Born Yesterday was born as a play.

The middlebrow three-act piece which opened on Broadway in 1946 was not serious, not a film and not about politics. Instead it was a comedy in the school of Pygmalion and Educating Rita: a tycoon is embar-rassed by the gaffes made by his bimbo, but when she — like Kanin — tries to improve herself with a liberal education, she discovers that he is the one who is "not couth".

Jean Arthur dropped out of the part in rehearsals, giving Judy Holliday the opening that made her name. The show ran in New York for 1,642 performances, and was revived as recently as 1989.

Marilyn Monroe was among Kanin's suggestions for the film role — he liked the tor the film role—he tiked the way she played sex as a "gorgeous joke"— but the studio bosses at Columbia thought she lacked star quality. Given the part again, Holliday won an Oscar in 1950. She was later to appear in Kapin and Gordon. The in Kanin and Gordon's The Marrying Kind (1952).

Kanin wrote three flimsy plays in 1949-50, and his later theatre work included a staging of The Diary of Anne Frank in 1955 (for which he interviewed surviving friends), Sunday in New York in 1961, and Funny Girl in 1964, with Barbra Streisand He also wrote and directed the musical Do-Re-Mi. which came to London in 1961. He wrote and wrote, latterly for the shelf rather than the stage or screen, and at 72 became president of the Authors League of America.

Kanin's first wife, Ruth Gordon, was 16 years his senior and died in 1985. Five years later he married the actress Marian Seldes, who was 16 years his junior and

SIR PETER HOPE

sounding change from intelli-

gence work was nothing of the

kind, but presented a consider-

able challenge, on which he

LEGAL NOTICES

series, Moviola: he never

Sir Peter Hope, KCMG, TD, diplomat, died on March 12 aged 86. He was born on May 29, 1912.

PETER HOPE was a versatile diplomat who served in MIS and MI6 as well as in the conventional Diplomatic Service. After his retirement he made a new career in business as a director of several companies and as an international adviser to several others. He also developed a talent for fundraising for his favourite charities.

Charles Peter Hope was educated at the Oratory London, where he stitlied mathematics: and then at Cambridge. He joined the

Royal Horse Artillery in 1937 and retired as major in 1946, but his attachment to the Army was largely nominal. In fact he joined MI6 in 1938, was in at the start of Special Operations Executive in 1940, and in 1941 transferred to MI5. where his gift for languages led him to specialise in the interrogation of continental Europeans coming to England. In the winter of 1944 he went to SHAEF headquarters. to locate British traitors. He was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration in 1945.

always looked back with relish. He was responsible for two thousand personnel, all of whom had to be supplied from England (even food and coal were imported) in order to avoid involvement with the French black market. He also coped imperturbably with his Ambassador, Sir Alfred Duff Cooper, and with the redoubtable Lady Diana. After the war Hope trans-

From 1950 to 1952 he was assistant head of the United lerred to the Foreign Office Nations Department at the Foreign Office. The Korean "Secretary (Administration) at War occupied much of his the British Embassy in Paris time, but he also worked from 1946 to 1950. This dull- closely with the Colonial Of-

fice on new plans for Africa. Hope served in Germany from 1953 to 1956, first as acting Head of Chancery and then as chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee at Mönchengladbach, and was appointed CMG in 1956. He then spent the most demanding three and a half years of his career as head of news department in the Foreign

Office. Four days after he took over the department, the Israelis invaded Egypt. As Foreign Office spokesman he had to deal with hostile press and television throughout the Suez crisis and learnt the arts of speak antributably and of gaining the journalists' trust. During his period in news

IN THE MATTER OF THE THE VENCTALT 1986

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

department Hope accompanied Harold Macmillan on his "wind of change" tour of Africa. He witnessed an unnerving row with Khrushchev, and was present at a "fence mending" meeting with President Eisenhower in Bermuda and at Eisenhower's return visit to London.

From 1959 to 1962 Hope served as Minister at the British Embassy in Madrid. where he made no progress on the Gibraltar question, but persuaded the Spanish Foreign Ministry to reopen 17 non-Catholic churches, which had been closed by Franco. He There followed two years as Consul-General in Houston and four as Alternate British Delegate to the United Nations, under Lord Caradon. In 1968 he went as Ambassa-

dor to Mexico. During his four years in post British exports to Mexico trebled. It was the time of the students' revolution (though Hope believed that behind them were more professional agitators, trained at Lumuraba University and in North Korea), and the residence and office building were surrounded by troops. There were two unsuccessful bomb attacks and at the World Cup many Coca-Cola bottles were thrown at him. Despite the troubles, the Duke of Edinburgh paid a long visit to the Olympic Games of 1968 and

stayed 17 days at the embassy. Hope was a devout Catholic. He was a Knight of Justice of the Venerable Order of St John (the Knights of Malta) and a member of the order's governing body, in which he took a keen interest. He had many business connections. one of the most unusual of which involved negotiations with the Colombian Government over the raising of old

Spanish wrecks. In retirement in West Sussex he shot and fished, made a host of friends who valued him as a man of unfailing kindness and a lively raconteur, and continued, even in old age, to pay visits to his small farm in Spain. He took an active part in the Conservative Association and in the Council for the Protection of Rural England. He married Hazel Turner in

1936. She survives him, along with two of their three sons.

BIDU SAYAO

Baldovina "Bidů" Sayão, Brazilian soprano, died on March 12 aged 96. She was born in Rio de Janeiro on May II, 1902.

BIDU SAYAO was not only Brazil's greatest operatic soprano. She was also one of the last remaining links with the Golden Age of singing. During a career which spanned more than thirty years she appeared with Pertile and Gigli, Schipa and Thill. Indeed when Thill died she claimed that the era of great French tenors had passed for

a big voice and towards the end of her career it lost some of its volume. But it had a diamond-sharp edge and was used with great refinement. There was never anything remotely vulgar about the Sayao style of singing, and she made the most of her very feminine charms on stage. She was pert and pretty as Mozart's Susanna and Gounod's Juliette and quite capable of tugging a heartstring or two as Puccini's Mimi. She was always careful never to venture into the heavier roles of the Italian and French reper-

Her career began and ended in her native Rio. She made her debut there as Rosina in The Barber of Seville in 1924. And although she eventually took up American citizenshin. she chose the same city for her farewell tour in 1958, including three of her favourite roles: Mimi, Juliette and Debussy's

Mélisande. Bidu Sayão's rise to prominence was almost the stuff of which Hollywood was made. Her father died when she was four and she was extremely strictly brought up by her mother, who devoted her own life to her daughter. Bidu's early ambitions to be an actress were very much frowned upon in a family where the stage was not considered to be a respectable profession. However, she was allowed to take singing lessons. One of the teachers, Madame Teodorini, was Romanian and when she suddenly decided to return to her native country Bidů Sayão

followed her there. The reward was to appear peared as Manon in 1937. She sang there until 1951, moving



Vocal gifts used with great refinement: Bidú Sayāo in 1954

Marie of Romania, who was sufficiently impressed to send Sayão to study with Jean de Reszke. She was one of his last pupils before his death in 1925 and it was he who put the idea into her head that she might be an opera singer and not just a concert performer.

After that Rio debut much of her early career was spent in Rome, where she sang coloratura parts, such as Amina in Bellini's La sonnambula and Adina in Donizetti's L'elisir d'amore. Then came Paris and the Opera Comique, with Massenet and Gounod. There was also Reynaldo Hahn, who coached her personally in Si

mes vers avaient des ailes. She came to the attention of Arturo Toscanini, who trained her for her American concert debut, in Debussy, at the Carnegie Hall in 1934. And it was New York which provided the house with which she will always be most associated, the Met, where she apgradually to more lyric roles such as Mélisande and Verdi's Violenta.

To the regret of many she never appeared there as Donizetti's Lucia: that role was reserved for Lily Pons.

During her last years in New York her career was closely monitored by her second husband, the baritone Giuseppe Danise. He was careful to steer her away from all parts that might have overtaxed the voice. Rudolf Bing, the new general admin-strator at the Met, was not a Sayāo admirer and the Brazilian soprano took her leave of the house with a performance of La Bohème, with the upand-coming Giuseppe di Stefano partnering her.

She broke her retirement briefly to record Floresta Amazonica for her friend and compatriot, Hector Villa-Lobos. She had long been one of his favoured interpreters. Thereafter she was content to live in retirement on the

AUSTRIA TAKEN OVER NAZI REJOICINGS IN VIENNA

Vienna, March 15 Herr Hitler, speaking before the Austrian War Memorial this morning with such emotion that he had not full control of his voice, proclaimed that Austria, the oldest of the German military marches, was to resume her traditional mission as the bastion of the German Reich in the east, the iron guarantor of the Reich freedom and security.

Herr Hitler said that he was certain that the East March would master its task as well as it had done of old. It must have occurred to some of Herr Hitler's hearers that the old East March, in the course of mastering its task. gave the bastion a very extensive glacis. Herr Hitler said that he had to report to the

German nation the greatest achievement of his life, the entry of his homeland into the German Reich. German men and women (said Herr Hitler), within a few days there has been a revolution in the community of the German

people the extent of which we are able to see today, but the significance of which only later

ON THIS DAY March 16, 1938

Adolf Hitler, speaking with great emotion, described the joining together of the German and Austrian states as the greatest achievement of his life. Hitler was, of course, born in Austria.

enerations can measure. In recent years those at the head of the regime which has been overthrown often spoke of the special mission Which in their eyes this country had to fulfil. The role of the so-called independence of Austria which was founded in the Peace Treaties and was dependent on the grace of the foreigner was to hinder the creation of a truly great German Reich and to bar the way to the German people's future.

I now proclaim for this land its new mission. Its mission answers to the vocation which once called hither German settlers

from all parts of the old Reich. The oldest East March of the German people is from now on to be the newest bastion of the German nation and so of the German Reich. For centuries in the unquiet times of the past the storms of the east broke on the frontiers of the old march. For centuries more, for all the future she is to be again an iron guarantor of the security and freedom of the German Reich and so a surety for the happiness and peace of our great people. And I know this, the old East March of the German people will fulfil its new task just as the old task was solved and mastered.

I speak in the name of the millions of men. of this wonderfully beautiful German land. and, above all, in the name of the city of Vienna, when in this moment I assure the 68,000,000 of other fellow-Germans in our broad Reich: "This land is German."

The new military significance to be given to Austria was brought home to the Viennese this afternoon as the columns of the German Army (now including the Austrian Army), led by 150 tanks, marched or rode down the Ringstrasse for more than two hours after parading before the Führer. Over the housetops roared the engines of 150 bombers and about 30 other aeroplanes, startling the pigeons, and even the dogs, who are not yet customed in Vienna to the panoply modern war.

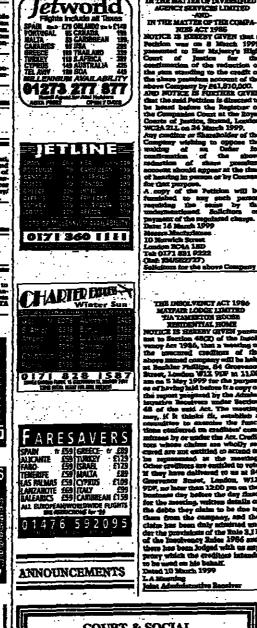
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AND MOTICE IS RESTRIKE GIVEN that the said Petition is discussed. Act 1986, that a seasting of credi-ctus of the above company will be held at 2 Hootschury Street, Lon-don, WCLB 25T on 23 March 1999 at 11,00 am for the puspess of dealing with Sections 99 101 of the handwarp Act 1986, Secund. conditust (unless they statement their security) must give particulars of their security and for which if they with two votant asymmetr as to be reasonabled and the specting any reasons information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of efficies and convening the needing of a explanatory note is enclosed.

NOTICE IS ALSO REMERY GAVER, province to Section 98(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, then a live of the Nemus' and addresses of the company's qualitons have be extended. innerse should appear to be been should appear to be been purpose.
A copy of the Petition will be fundabed to any such purson requiring the same by the tion senses and assumed of the company's coefficies has be tenta-ized free of charge at the offices of Baker Thip, 2 Bootsmay Street, London, WCLD 387, between 10 as and 4 pm on the two bestores they prior to the day of the meeting.

A florat of prency which, if invented to be used for veding at the meeting, must by duly completed and ledged at the sejection of office of the company, 2 Biotimbury Street, Lenton, WCIB SST not have then 12 noon, on the last business day THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1996
MATURAL LOOSE LIMITED
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TOTAL TO SECTION 48(Z) of the Insolu Ent to Section 45(2) of the Instor-vency Act 1986, that a meeting of the gracumal creditors of the above manual company will be held. at Beacher Phillips, 64 Grosvenor Street, London WIX 90F st 11,100 — 4200 for the turpopam on 5 May 1977 for one of newloy half before it a copy of the report yeepened by the Administrative Receivers under Section 46 of the entit Act. The meeting amy, if it thinks if it, establish a consultive to stancius the functions confered to exhibit a commitment by or under the Act. Creditors whose obstims are wholly secured are not entitled to accept the new terms of the received it they have delivered to use the first they have delivered to use the Greevener Sueet, London, WILL 9DF, no have than 12:00 pm on the beatment only help the day fixed for the meeting, written details of the debts they alm to be the to them from the company, and the IN THE MAITTER OF NOVAMATICS AND AND THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985.

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Beating in person, or by Commel for that purpose.
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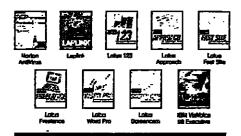
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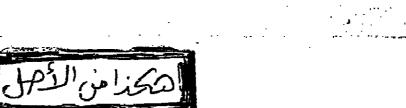
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UK firms slow

to exploit Web

■ The decision on the fate of local training and enterprise coun-

cils has been deferred yet again so that their role in the delivery of

the new Small Business Service can be explored. However, some

recommendations of the long-overdue report, launched last July.

streamline contracting with providers. The full review is expected

this summer. Comments should be sent to Val Kenton, W3b,

an, let alone their American,

counterparts when it comes to

recognising the competitive

threat imposed by the Internet

Research unveiled by Oracle. the software company, and the

Institute of Directors shows that only 2 per cent of British compa-

nies thought the Internet posed a

threat from firms using the Web

outside the UK. By contrast, 14

per cent of US firms, 23 per cent

of Norwegian and 17 per cent of German firms were worried

Although UK business leaders

considered their own companies

about competition.

on their home market.

Chancellor's package misses mark

Henrietta Lake says that Budget measures will be of help to only a small number of firms

mail and medium-sized companies are totting up the cost of last week's Budget, with many finding themselves out of pocket. Most of Gordon Brown's policy decisions concerning small firms were wide of the mark, such as the research and development tax reliefs, which, according to some observers, targeted the

wrong companies. Other changes, such as the extensions to national insurance, simply added to the financial burden of smaller firms.

The package of pro-enterprise measures from research and development to corporate venturing have raised the profile of smaller, growing firms, but many of these impressivesounding initiatives are burdened by so many restrictions and qualifications that they will benefit only a small percentage of companies

Mike Warburton, senior tax Cartner at Grant Thornton, the accountants, said that many of the changes announced in the Budget will simply add to the complexity: "1999 is going to be an administrative nightmare for firms, from the Working Time Directive to the minimum

es plus, from October, tax cred-its for working families and disabled people. The Government must address this now.

The new 10 per cent band of corporation tax brings a tax break for the very smallest companies. For the remainder, however, it adds complexity. Only firms with taxable profits of up to £10,000 will benefit from the full 10 per cent rate, a maximum saving for any firm of

Sheen Sullivan from Pannell Kerr Forster, the accountants, said: "I am very worried about multiplicity of tax bands. We are now faced with a tax system with about 60 different tax rates. People who have never had to fill out a tax return in their life are likely to be deterred from leaving the security of employment within a company and setting out on their own. This defeats the purpose of

creating risk-takers." Life not only becomes more complicated for most firms but also more expensive. One of the most costly changes is the extensions to employers' national insurance contributions. From April 2000 firms must pay NI on all employee benefits, from

ing accommodation and loans.
David Oakden, who runs Weiland Electronics, a manufacturing firm based in Guildford, says these changes will

cost £150 extra per employee.

"It is hard to get good people
in this part of the world. I need to offer them good packages, including health and insurance benefits, which I will now have to pay national insurance contributions on. The Budget simply means I will have to restrict the number of people I hire."

Ni will now be charged at a level rate of 12.2 per cent for the tax year 1999-2000, going down to 11.7 per cent the following

Mr Oakden added: "What I object to is the Chancellor saying we are all getting tax cuts. but most of the initiatives apply to the smallest firms or startups. For the rest of us, costs are Richard Baldwin at Deloitte

& Touche, the accountants, said: "Don't forget that stamp duty and fuel duty increases also affect companies. The benefits of many initiatives will quickly be wiped out by new



not as straightforward as they might appear. The details of the research and development tax credits - 12.5 per cent for taxpaying companies and 24 per cent for those who are not announced the day after the Budget are typical. Only new or small firms are eligible for the tax cuts on investments above £50,000, and only if they are receiving no other subsidies or

"It also seems to defeat the purpose that companies which Many of the new schemes an-nounced by the Chancellor are not eligible," said David Bell-

ringer, of Arthur Andersen, the accountants. "Many of the high-tech, fast-growing firms that the Government says it is trying to target need the investment at their very earliest

stages."
The methods by which most small firms recoup the R&D benefit, through a deduction against corporation tax contributions, does nothing to alleviate the problem of cashilow, because of the time between investment and deduction.

Geoff Edwards, of Grant

help small companies because

there was no market for their

shares. Under the new all-

employee share scheme aimed

at boosting the number of workers holding a stake in

their own companies, employ-

lief is being targeted at the wrong firms and excludes those which stand to gain the most because of the amount they spend on R&D. These slightly larger firms are more likely to drive Britain's productivity.

"I think it may be a case of too little, too late," said Mr Ed-While the owners and manag-

ers of Britain's four million small and medium-sized firms start to cost some of the implications of the Budget, they may wish that Mr Brown had sim-

Moorfoot, Sheffield, SI 4PQ or val.kenton-consuit@dfee.gov.uk. ■ Companies need to recog■ Outdated management approaches constrain competitivenise the importance of con-fidentiality in their whistleness, according to a report commissioned by the Institute of blowing telephone "hotlines" for staff. Manchester Uni-Personnel and Development. It recommends that managers versity has conducted a report must drop common assumpshowing that for hotlines tions: all that counts is the perto be effective, they must be free of charge, accessible 24 hours a day and widely publicised. Copies of the report can be obtained by callformance that top management see; people's future employability is of no concern; and that managers decide what people

UK as laggards. British firms

were also less aware of opportu-

nities offered by the Internet.

with fewer than one in 25 believ-

ing that costs could be reduced

by using the Web. Tim Melville-Ross, director-

general of the IoD, said: The UK is uniquely well-positioned

to take advantage of the inter-

net. We've got the benefit of Eng-

lish, the Internet language.

some of the brightest IT skills in

the world and a strong economy.

We ought to be in the first rank

of nations taking the leap for-

ward. Instead, our survey shows we are resting on our laurels."

ing 0181-362 5983. need and trainers implement. PETER CORNTHWAITE, group imance director at Blacknoo Pleasure Beach, which has been in the family for more than 100 years and has just over 300 yees, says stop the phas-

The Chancellor's scheme for employee share ownership may be fine and dandy for other firms, but for a familyowned business like ours it is frankly an irrelevance. The family members do not want to

dilute their shareholding. very well — I can set a base profit level above which profitrelated pay kicked in, ensuring most staff benefit. The tax advantages also work well for the company. I know that the Treasury has encountered tax avoidance problems with some firms, but I wish the Budget had addressed these issues.



ing out of profit-related pay.

"Profit-related pay works



☐ Any company wishing to express a view in Megaphone should contact In Business.

Share incentive scheme 'unworkable'

overnment plans for a new scheme to help small but growing enterprises to attract highcalibre managers from larger companies have been condemned as a "complete waste of space" by a City expert.

Under the new Enterprise Management Incentive (EMI) scheme announced as part of the Budget proposals to encourage enterprise, small companies will be able to reward risk-takers leaving secure jobs with up to £100,000 in shares.

Budget plans will act as spur to take companies private, writes Susan Emmett ees can buy shares out of their

However, the scheme, targeted at firms with gross assets of £15 million or less, excludes quoted companies, which some argue could lead to a reduction in the number of smaller quoted companies. As a further restriction, unquoted companies that could qualify for the incentive are prevented from floating for three years af-

ter taking up the scheme. Michael Jacobs, chairman of Cisco, the City group for smaller quoted companies, said: "The EMI is regarded by many in the City as a complete waste of time. Smaller quoted companies have suffered badly since pension funds started withdrawing their investment. This scheme will act as a further incentive to take companies private."

The scheme was also criticised by Malcolm Hurlston,

chairman of the Employee Share Ownership Centre, for providing no incentive to an average smaller company. Mr Hurlston said: "It is particularly designed for high-tech, fast-growing firms whose value is going up fast. If you are working for a fairly run-of-the-mill smaller business. then the scheme is of little ben-

Mr Hurlston added that the

SBA.The Government can play a big role but cannot do it

and will act as a guarantor or partly fund a venture with the

The SBA relies on help not only from the banks but other sionals such as lawyers

and 13,000 retired executives. But observers are aware that cutting red tape is a particular concern of British businesses, and that the SBS needs

to be given real power. American small firms receive far greater regulatory exemp-tions. The SBA not only re-

ports to the President directly,

but a representative sits on the

influential National Economic

Council, giving it a say at the highest level of policymaking. The SBS will report to the Sec-

retary of State for Trade and

Industry.

Mr Lader believes that it is the SBA's financing and support services which "would get

the highest marks from US businesses". He added: "We already have very strong busi-

ness lobby groups in the States and, in fact, it was the Nation-

al Federation of Independent

Business which brought down much of President Clinton's

the mission to cut red tape, the

SBA could play a role and should lead by example.

Mr Lader said: "Anyone who has seen what the SBA

has done for the remarkable

record of job creation in the

US over the past six years would enthusiastically com-

mend the initiatives in the UK

to assist small and medium-

sized growth firms."

However, he said that, in

healthcare initiative.

private sector."

itself. It is all about good public-private partnerships. The SBA relies on the banks

pre-tax pay. However, Marc Lucas, manother share incentive. allaging director of Lucas Softemployee schemes announced ware Solutions, was quick to by Gordon Brown in the Budgdismiss the proposals. Mr et, was not enough to entice Lucas, whose company embosses at smaller companies to offer the scheme and did not

ploys a core of six people, said: "We would have to be a pretty sizeable business before offering anything like this. It's a paperwork nightmare. The administrative burden would be enormous. Whoever dreamt up this idea has obviously never run a company."

How Britain can profit from American model

Inspiration for

the small firms

body came from

Washington, says

Henrietta Lake

The Small Business Service (SBS) an-nounced by Gordon Brown last week could have the power to answer many of the pleas of Britain's growing

It aims to provide co-ordinated support for small and medium-sized companies across government departments and represent their needs at the heart of policymaking. Over the next fev months a consultation process with business will take place to decide the structure, role and operation of the SBS. Some £100 million has already been set aside for the project and it could be up and run-

ning by the autumn.

The Government has also been looking for inspiration Latside the UK. Last month a group of civil servants went to Washington to visit the head-quarters of the Small Business Administration and apparently returned impressed. It is likely that many of the functions of the British Small Business Service will be modelled on the SBA in the US, which was set up in 1953 to champion America's entrepreneurs. The SBA acts as the advo-

es and provides primary source of funding for small firms. In 1997 the SBA acted as a guarantor for \$29 billion (£18 billion) worth of loans, directly lent \$10.9 billion and invested \$2.37 billion through its ven-

small businesses. Before becoming the Ameri-



Philip Lader says the SBA example could be copied in the UK

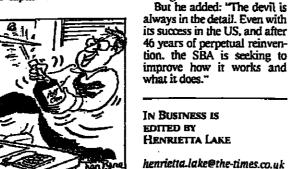
state and federal government level, provides support servicture capital programme to

access to capital.

ain in 1997. Philip Lader was head of the Small Business Administration. He told The Times: "In the US and probably globally, the primary challenge for small business is "That is why in America the variety of funding tools from

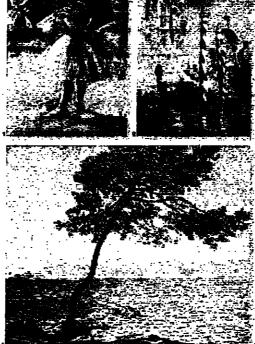
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the loan guarantees and venture capital to micro-loans is



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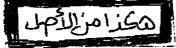
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CHANGING TIMES







Robbie Fowler's two goals for Liverpool on Saturday may have been in vain but those who included him in their Fantasy League teams were delighted with the six points

Double helping of points available for far-sighted

t has been a busy week in the FA Carling Premiership and, League. Midweek victories for Arsenal, Derby County and Leeds United were followed up by further wins on Saturday, with the defenders in the Arsenal and Leeds sides repelling all-comers and earning six points for any Fantasy League entrant with the judgment to have selected them.

Dennis Bergkamp, with two goals against Sheffield Wednesday at Highbury a week ago and a penalty at Everton on Saturday, was the week's top scorer and would be the obvious candidate for our player of the week award but for the fact that he has already received the title, and we prefer to share it around. There were plenty of other

candidates. Derby County enjoyed two wins at Pride Park, over Aston Villa and Liverpool, and although neither opponent represents a formidable barrier these days, the goalscoring of Paulo Wanchope, the Costa Rican, and "Neon" Deon Burton, of Jamaica, together with the midfield creativity of Francesco Baiano, of Italy, deserved

The Leeds United defenders have kept out Tottenham and Sheffield Wednesday over the past six days, being taken increasingly seriously as contenders for one of the three places on offer for the European Champions' League. In front of Nigel Martyn, the goalkeeper, Lucas Radebe, Ian Harte, Jonathan Woodgate and the others have all enhanced their reputations and, it is worth pointing out, gained six Fantasy League points each.

A player does not, however, have to be part of a successful team to earn points. Take Dougle Freedman, for instance. The Nottingham Forest forward, who has also played for Barnet, Crystal Palace and Wolves. scored Forest's consolation goal in the 2-1 home defeat by Newcastle United on Wednesday, and was also on target in his team's unexpected victory over Wimbledon at Selhurst Park on Saturday. With Wimbledon



pressing for an equaliser, Freedman swept the ball out to Matthieu Louis-Jean on the right, and charged unfield in time to accept the full back's forward pass, move clear of the last defender and lob the ball over the advancing goalkeeper. Neil

Another relatively unheralded player who added six points to his Fantasy League total this week was Steve Vickers, the Middlesbrough central defender. An established figure on Teesside, he has played alongside a series of defensive partners, including Gianluca Festa and, most recently, Gary Pallister, but seldom takes the spotlight himself. A goal on Sunday in the 3-0 win over Southampton gave him a rare chance to grab some attention.

European Cup final

● £5,000 for third place

sports equip

• £10,000 to the runner-up

£500 weekly On-Target prize

Which of these deserving cases gets our award? The answer appears opposite.

☐ Even if your team's performance

does not put you in the running for the award of £500 for the team of the week, you still have a chance to collect an equally valuable prize if your team total matches the ON-Target numbers printed opposite. Follow the instructions for a chance to win this week's ON-Target prize.

☐ For legal reasons, The Times Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 years and younger who are already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the

You know they always say about one-sided matches that if it was a boxing match they would have stopped it? I am aware of the saying. Well, I was thinking after the Holyfield against Lewis fight that it might be interesting if we judge games the way they do in the Noble Art. Do you envisage someone

like David Elleray putting his arms around Paul Jones, the Southampton that he shouldn't take any I don't think that would work. For example, the referee at Selhurst on Saturday would have given the game to Wimbledon after five or six minutes in

that case, and in fact Forest went on to win. Plus I don't think spectators would really like paying out for only a few minutes of action. Although we've both seen games where two or three minutes of action were spread out over 90

Good point. But it wasn't so much referees stooping matches as the idea that if there are no goals scored, then a panel of observers could decide who wins. I can certainly imagine that your plan would add some spice. Instead of drifting away after an inconclusive result, the crowd could stay on and cheer the announcement by the

But you'd have to think carefully about who those udges would be. The referee and his tants, surely?

As I was saying No, they've got enough to think about, waving flags and coloured cards around. Some observers in the stand,

FULL BACKS

CENTRE BACKS

one neutral, I suppos That's the way I see it. So for, say, Arsenal against Chelsea you could have Clive Anderson as the home judge, David Mellor as the away judge and ... Alan Hansen as the

That could be difficult. The result could affect Liverpool's position, so his neutrality could be called into question. But everyone supports someone. And you couldn't

allow anyone with a Fantasy League team to be a judge, could you, in case they needed one of their players to keep a clean sheet and the decision Well, they'd still keep the

clean sheet points, wouldn't But you can't keep a clean sheet and lose, can you? It's

not logical. After Lewis and Holyfield. logic doesn't come into it.



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HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

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● £50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the

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£1,900 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards. TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the

entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds, Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your

team and make sure the total does not exceed 250m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or Rol) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.
LUCKY DIP if you would like us to select a team

at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Postal entries only. TO ENTER BY PHONE Call 0640 67 88 99 (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-

tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the

UK are charged at national Calls from payphones cost

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	r entry as soon as possible to materials your point-scoring TAM NAME (up to 16 characters)	y opportunities	I also wish to enter the Youth Langua (please tick)
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HELPLINE

MIDFIELDERS

Marvellous Martyn calls the shots

With two clean sheets in the space of four days last week, the Leeds goalkeeper

lent a helping hand to this week's winner

ornwall is not generally known as a hotbed of soccer talent. Nevertheless, Great Britain's south-westernmost county has made at least one important contribution to the England national squad and the quality of the FA Carling Premiership. Nigel Martyn, a son of St Austell, and the goalkeeper of Leeds United and England, has been so consistent that, these days, strikers are having to produce the very best in order to get the ball past

£16 ju_{ij}

aid

Remember the Tottenham Hotspur versus Leeds Worthington Cup replay at White Hart Lane? Martyn's outstretched fingertips. ably assisted by the inside of an upright, denied David Ginola what would unquestionably have been the goal of the season, and only goals by Darren Anderton and Ginola, which themselves were both strong candidates for the annual title, could beat him.

David O'Leary, the Leeds manager, is at pains to dismiss any talk of his team of promising young talents becoming contenders for a place in the European Champions' League ("Overachievers" was his verdict on the team after their league victory over Tottenham last Wednesday), but he can have no doubts about the quality of the experienced Martyn, his last line of fence, who is pushing David Seaman hard for the England goalkeeper's jersey.

He began his professional career in the West Country (although it probably seemed like the North East to him) at Bristol Rovers, before moving to Crystal Palace for El million in late 1989. A further £2,250,000 was required to take him to Elland Road in the summer of

This season he is threatening to improve on the outstanding form he showed during his first season at Leeds (1996-97), when he kept 19 clean sheets in 37 games, although the way the defenders in front of him have been playing recently, he can probably afford to take the occasional breather and still not risk conceding a goal.

With their comfortable victory over Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on Saturday, Leeds have now notched five successive wins, and kept the opposition out Dwice in the past six days, moving assuredly into fourth place, two any Fantasy League cotrants with Martyn in their sides a useful six points, with plenty more, one feels.

Martyn is the goalkeeper in this week's £500 prize-winning team. The



THE LONE GUNME	N
N Martyn (LEE)	·
J Kenna (BLA)	·
n Gorgou (MID) ****	
S Campbell (TOT).	
R Ferdinand (WES)	
A Thompson (AST)	
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M Kennedy (WiM) .	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
D Bergkemp (ARS)	·
A Cole (MAN)	
Total polator 24	

Lone Gunmen, chosen by Jayne Dray, of Liphook, Hampshire, who supports Leeds as well as Wolves. An A-level student at Alton College, Ms Dray, who also plays the beautiful game, "when I get the chance," wins £100-worth of Puma sports equipment into the bargain.

Her defence also included Rio Ferdinand and Dean Gordon, who each contributed three points to the Gunmen, although Gordon could have done even better had a first-half shot in Middlesbrough's game against Southampton on Sunday found the net instead of the foot of a post.

Her star performers, though, were up front, Andy Cole and Dennis Bergkamp producing 15 of her team's total of 34 points. All the usual puns about Cole, goals and Newcastle were out in force on Sunday after the former St James Park favourite came back to haunt his old club yet again with both of Manchester United's goals in their

Bergkamp, with nine points earned by three goals in five days, has certainly shaken off the post-World Cup lethargy that seemed to afflict him in the early months of this season.



Cornish cream: It is a long way from St Austell to Elland Road, especially via Bristol and South London. but PFA award winner and England squad regular Nigel Martyn has risen to the top. Two clean sheets for the Leeds United goalkeeper last week meant six Fantasy League points for our weekly winner

FANTAST LEAGUE TOP 100 Pin-Ups 7... The M Tear Scorch..... This Ones Min Andrew James Paul O'Nelli... Real Datam Renrietta Bal Henri & Goals UU Top Class Rej Chicken Chas Scotts Stars... He B G Bees Mike Truran. L Samuels.... Steven Walls Nathan Hotsour Mil Stars .Spirtters...... Spironthevilla El Tel's Revens .Hanogate Elever Inter Radicchio.

With another 15 prizes to be won, it's time to give it a try

If your Fantasy League team is struggling, don't despair, there is consolation to be found by checking if you're ON-Target

THIS WEEK'S

Dave Osbourne. of Minehead, the main winner of ON-Target this week, who finds himself £500 richer nd possessor of an EA Sports Pack Fourteen others also managed to win excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now - or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. The Times has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned Fifa 99 game. Every week you have the chance to win: Ist Prize: £500 plus an

'EA Sports Pack **4** runners up: **EA** Sports Packs 10 additional runners up: Fifa 99 CD-Rom. IF YOU already have a team in the main game. then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League playscore each week and The if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call

to our ON Target winners'

line (national rate call) will

put you in the draw to win

one of the 15 prizes. The ON-Target score may ON-TARGET SCORE

5 or 10 or 15 points?

Check your total, then ring 0870 901 4270 (ex UK +44 870 901 4270)

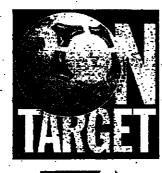
> Calls charged at national rates

be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week. Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on:

0870 901 4270

If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another. one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many yearns you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes. HOW TO ENTER: Look up

your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches **ON-Target** number(s), then call our claim line on 0870 901 4270 (calls, charged at national rate, should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next





number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won. Managers with the correct points who have not called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. OT MYAIRA WILL NOT DE ENTERED.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS: Dave Osbourne, of Minsheed (ESOD plus EA Sports Pack); Greg Elis, of Menchester, Daved Haydon, of Cardiff, Derrier Cat, of Fethram, Jenny Kirnber, of Blaydon-on-Tyne (EA Sports Packs). George Handley, of Leeds, Joan Alexander, of Henley-on-Tharmes, Gerraed Colemen, of Lanchester, Mack Trovell, of Samundham, Claire Durn, of Notangham, Rober Frest; of Steyning, Oms Dobs, of Worosster, Carrilla Begg, of Cranbrook, Roger Cilson, of Westort, David Caggs, of Southempton (Fila 99 CD-Rome).

FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ



The Fantasy League quiz gives you the chance to test your football knowledge. Two weeks ago we showed you four players who have bettered emselves this season

in terms of league position, although they remain registered, for Fantasy League purposes, with their original clubs: Tim



Sherwood (now Tottenham Hotspur), Steve Watson (Aston Villa), Dwight Yorke (Manchester United) and Paolo Di Canio

(West Ham United). What have this week's four (and only these four) in

CHECK YOUR SCORES TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE TOP 25

1		Junglemen	329
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4	Tom Summers	Ganichou	302
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8			292
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24	Steven Williams	Stevie's Wonders	277
24	Paul Willams	Where Was Gazza	277

Late bloomers spring into action

Now that we're coming to the final few furlongs of The Times Fantasy League, you can be sure that the contenders for European places and the relegation strugglers will step up their form. It's always worth backing a struggling side over a mid-table side who have nothing left to play for, and this should certainly be considered by Fantasy League

managers, too.

Nottingham Forest upset Wimbledon at the weekend to stay in with a chance of staying in the Premiership next year; expect further shock results.

In Fantasy League there is indeed the phenomenon of "spring specialists" - those players who start to produce their goods once the daffodils of spring start blooming. Despite failing to keep Bolton in the Premiership last

season, Alan Thompson was at the heart of everything that the Trotters did during this time and scored a mighty impressive 30 points after March 1. This season it could be Matt Le Tissier, of Southampton, Jason Wilcox, of Blackburn, Mark Kinselia of Charlton, or Nick Barmby, of Everton, who hit form when it

Matt Sims

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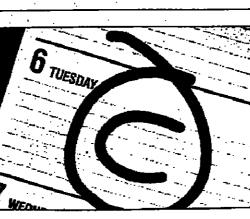
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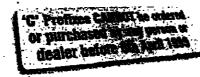
C's the day





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Driver and Vehicle Looking Agency

THE TIMES TODAY

Resign call to Santer and his team

■ Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission. was under pressure to resign with members of his team last night after outside inspectors released a report that concluded that he had effectively lost control of the Brussels executive. MEPs of most political camps urged Mr Santer to take full responsibility for an epidemic of fraud, irregularities, cronyism and mismanagement...

Car bomb threatens peace process

■ The car-bomb murder of a leading nationalist lawyer plunged Northern Ireland's peace process into deep crisis yesterday, and last night rioting erupted near the scene of the explosion in Lurgan, County Armagh. Rosemary Nelson's killing makes it almost inconceivable that the IRA will agree to begin disarming before Good Friday's deadline.....Pages I, 2

Muslim cleric arrested The radical Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza al Masri, was being questioned last night by anti terrorist squad officers after being arrested in a dawn raid at his West London home...

Straw acts on Bulger Jack Straw is to set a new minimum jail term for the boys convicted of murdering James Bulger despite a ruling by the European Commission of Human Rights that they did not receive a fair Pages L 4

Woman, 85, 'starved' A doctor who ordered nursing home staff to starve an 85-yearold woman and to let her "slip away" was accused of serious professional misconductPage 3

Lewis draw 'mistake' The British judge who awarded the draw that denied Lennox Lewis the world heavyweight boxing title said he made an "honestPage 5 mistake".....

Prescott defends trip John Prescott returns to his ministerial desk today after completing a gruelling visit to India and the Maldive Islands......Page 6

Classics entry test The next generation of Oxford

classicists is entering university without knowing Latin or Greek. Their aptitude to learn is judged by their ability to make sense of

Prince and penguins The Prince of Wales, on his official visit to the South Atlantic, briefly escaped the politics of sovereignty during a tour of Sea Lion

Archer's milk pledge

Milk took centre stage in the race to become London's mayor as Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare vowed to give free cartons to children... ..Page 10

China talks tough

China, displaying an unyielding stance on human rights, warned Western governments not to support Chinese dissidents living inPage II

Kosovo turning point The ethnic Albanian delegation to the resumed Kosovo peace talks handed in a letter saying they would sign up to the Contact

Group's autonomy plan for the Last Supper uproar

The Italian Culture Minister stepped into a mounting controversy over the restoration of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper, now

in its final stages.....Page 13

Israeli water crisis

Israeli-Jordanian relations were plunged into their first crisis since the accession of King Abdullah II after Israel said it could no longer meet its commitment to provide its Arab neighbour with the set

Roman tomb reveals secrets of old

The tomb of one of the richest and most powerful people in Roman London began to reveal its secrets yesterday after 1,800 years, but the identity of the VIP remained unknown. Archaeologists opened up a stone sarcophagus, which was discovered in the City of London on Friday on a site destined to become an office complex...



Mary-Ann Gallacher soaked up the sunshine yesterday as the temperature climbed to 16C (61F). Warm weather is expected until the weekend

..Page 52

Cable crash: Shares of Cable &

Wireless lost almost 10 per cent of their value after the telecom company's biggest shareholder sold its stake at a discount to the market Eurotunnel womies: Eurotunnel fears that price rises caused by the controversial abolition of duty free

could result in a decline in the number of passengers Page 27 Euro mortgage: The Nationwide Building Society is launching the UK's first mortgage denominated in sterling but linked to EuropeanPage 27 Markets: The FTSE 100 index feil 75.4 to 6206.8. The pound fell 1.22 cents to \$1.6216 and .51p to 67.49p against the euro. The sterling index

Boxing: Lennox Lewis may have to go through meaningless contests to acquire the three belts that will give him the title of undisputed world heavyweight champion......Page 52 Football: The extent of the obsession with Ronaldo's fitness became apparent when television stations flew into a panic because the young star had missed training with a

Rugby union: Gary Armstrong has recovered from an elbow injury and returns as captain of the Scotland team against Ireland this weekend.

headache..

Racing: There is a growing conviction that Ireland could achieve a record number of winners at the Cheltenham Festival. The record fell to 102.3 from 103.1.......Page 30 stands at seven.

Mama Africa: As Miriam Makeba prepares for a Festival Hall concert, she talks about exile from South Africa, and her role as a goodwill ambassador.......Page 41 Scotland the brave: With the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in Edinburgh, Duncan McTier demonstrates again his complete mastery of the double bass in Robin Holloway's concerto __Page 41

London theatre: Greenwich Theatre unveils a noisy Hamlet that has been cut to ribbons, while Battersea Arts Centre stages an intriguing Gogol comedy..... Page 42 Big Screen USA: In our weekly look at the American box office, Michelle Pfeiffer buries her delecta-

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ INTERFACE

with the weekly

■ HOMES

needs of ethnic

communities

Going to the Oscars

technology supplement

How housing should

change to reflect the

irders, Edinburgh & Dundes, Aberdeen, y Firth, NE Scotland: mild, cloudy day patchy rain and citzzle, dying out in after-Moderate to treah W/SW wind. Max 15C

ble-doll image in The Deep End of

Doctor's busy: If you can't get in to see your GP, don't blame the NHS: blame the selfish patients who are clogging up surgeries......Page 16 Medicine Chest: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on thyroid disease Page 16 Memories: Evening, Susan Minor's new novel, is about dying and death. It is not depressing but uplifting because it is about the richness

of memory.... .Page 17 Listings war. Nothing in the whole nuptials shenanigans is as sensitive as the wedding list Page 17 Treasures: The Antiques and Fine Arts Fair in the West End sets a high note for the season Page 34

Colour of justice: Is the legal profession riddled with racism? The latest figures on ethnic minority representation seem to suggest so ... Page 37 Power loss: Kevin Maxwell's contempt victory may mean an end to some of the Trade Department's draconian powers... ... Page 39

it's been noted that much of Western Europe is now governed by leftwing political parties, a sharp change from the Thatcher-Kohl days of yore. But it's not clear how left those left-wing parties really are. The British Prime Minister Tony Blair followed Mr Clinton's. lead in steering his party away from its union base. Now Germany looks set to follow the same course.

Provious: A portrait of the writer. Close Up: Germaine Greer (BBC2. 9.30pm) Review: Joe Joseph on the latest BBCI fly-on-the-wall documentary Jailbirds Pages 50, 51

Sins of Commission

According to the yearly auditors' re port, the European Commission's culture of cronyism has brought to the Commission some of the worst Spanish practices ... that have eroded public confidence in European Union institutions Page 19

Children in court

If the ruling on the Bulger case leaves a sour taste, it is because it seems almost to overlook the particular horror of the crime.....Page 19

Street fighting man

An MP's plan to combat traffic jams offers much-needed relief for drivers suffering from the irritationPage 19 of blocked lanes.....

MATTHEW PARRIS

This was the chance for MPs to raise that morning's recommendation from the European Commission of Human Rights, on the James Bulger trial. Nobody men-Page 2 tioned it...

PETER RIDDELL

William Hague has done something sensible. He has stopped digging himself further into a hole on Europe.

Libby Purves

The NSPCC launches its biggen campaign this evening the difficult bit is to reach right inside the darkness of the most dangerous families... ...Page 18

MICHAEL GOVE

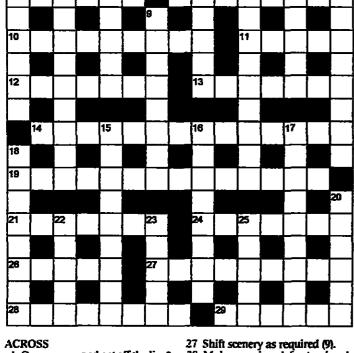
Do the Tories still believe they are so resented that their intervention in defence of unfairly vilified public servants would be as irritating as an unloved spouse's pouring of milk on the Cornflakes?..... Page 18

ROGER SCRUTON

British justice has enjoyed the confidence not only of the British people but of the entire civilised world ... but all that is changing Page 18

Garson Kanin, playwright; Bidu

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,052



ACROSS

1 Open an eye and get off the line? 4 Drink that may lead to a smash

10 Procrastinate when it's time to get up (9).

11 A brief, for example, is for the de-

fence (5). 12 The only thing an exhausted

army can beat? (7). 13 Goes flat out arranging tenan-

cies to rent (4.3). 14 Highlights of an Arctic cruise,

You should be switched on by this (8-2,4).

21 Notices faulty part (7).

24 In a group, coming from France

26 Still to be paid nothing to fly (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,051

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28 Make a union defer tea break Like three articles in the wash

l Recovery vessel - put out in it

2 Having ruined bock, perhaps

i)).
Individual put on a little weight

it's something in the air (5).
Perfect profession for an entrepreneur? (5).

Card woollen material that's genuine (9). A special guru or prophet (5).

8 Final appointment that precedes military retirement (4,4). 9 Seize with force after I'd taken

over (8). 15 It's extensively used by an oars-

16 Clue one composed about power and riches (8). 17 Hit oddly shaped cover on light

(9). 18 Launching of report on cricket side (5-3). 20 Know about any transported

from part of East Africa (6). 22 Infant learner told off, put out-23 Lack of practice for players in

group (5).

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25 Flight leader (5). Times Two Crossword, page 52

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☐ London, SE England, Midlands: starting country but becoming mild with surny light, variable wind. Max 16C (61F)

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INW & Central N England, Lake District, late of Man: cloudy morrang, surny breats this afternoon. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 14C (SSF)

LISW & NW Scotland, Casegow, Central Highlands, Argylic Cloudy with rain easing in alternoon. Fresh to strong SW wind. Max 13C (56F)
Li Orthowy, Shetland: mostly cloudy, intermatern rain. Fresh SW wind. Max 9C (48F).
Li Northern Ireland: cloudy moming, outbreaks of rain and druzde. Attempon direr and brighter. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 13C (56F)
Libteh Berwhiller cloudy start brightering up. Ditish Republic: cloudy start, brightening up later. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Mex 14C (54F) DE Anglia, E & NE England: cloudy morning

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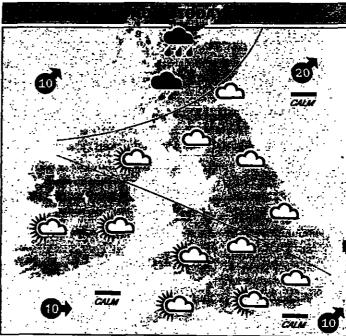
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Sayao, opera singer; Sir Peter Hope, diplomat... .Page 2 Budget reaction; Pilate's reputation; NSPCC advertising; British Li-The Washington Post brary dispute.

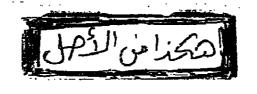


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Counter hopes dashed

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United in inter Crunch Sport, page 48

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 16 1999

German telecoms company nets £1.8bn

Market dives as Veba sells C&W stake

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

A SURPRISE, heavily discounted sale of 10 per cent of Cable & Wireless sent shock waves through the telecommunications sector on the London stock market yesterday, with the FISE 100 spi-ralling downward after its re-

cent record-breaking highs. The sale of the stake by Veba, the German telecoms company, which is thought to be the biggest "bought deal" on European markets, also netted ABN Amro Rothschild, the Dutch-owned securities house and Cazenove, the broker, about £27 million for a morn-

In a secret, dawn operation, Vebaoffloaded its entire C&W

Counter bid hopes dashed

By Sarah Cunningham

IAN CLUBB, chairman of First Choire, dange ened hopes that a coun-ter-bidder will emerge for the UK tour operator, which yesterday an-nounced a £1.45 billion merger with Kuoni, of Switzerland.

Mr Clubb said other companies that had made tentative approaches - believed to include Airtours and Preussag, which con-trols Thomas Cook - had been rejected at an early stage. He said: "Our analysis is that any combination of two of the top four UK tour operators could be referred to the Office of Fair Trading or the European authorities, and that is an unacceptable risk." First Choice shares fell almost 8 per cent to 173p yesterday. Mr Clubb, who will be executive chairman of the enlarged group, said be was disappointed with the share price reaction, and expected to see a rerating once the implications of the deal were understood by the market.

The merged company will be called Knoni Holdings. It will be 53 per cent owned by Knoni shareholders and 47 per cent by First Choice shareholders. Daniel Affolter, chairman of Kuoni, will be executive deputy chairman, while Riccardo Gullotti will be chief executive. Mr Gullotti is currently chief executive of Kuoni. The company will be listed on the London and Swiss exchanges

Mr Clubb said that there was very little overiap between the two businesses and there would be no job losses. Tempus, page 30

stake, netting £1.8 billion. It was not only the size of the deal — 246 million shares that stunned the market but also the price at which Veba decided to exit.

The shares closed Friday night at 830%p but it emerged in early morning trading that Veba had decided to sell its holding at more than £1 less, at 724.4p, a massive 12 per cent discount. News of the deal saw C&W lose 10 per cent of their value by the end of the day, closing at 751p, down 794p, and taking about £2 billion off the company's market value.

The deal and its price badly hit other telecoms stocks, with Telewest, the cable company, off by nearly 8 per cent and Colt Telecom, the advanced data group, down by over 5 per cent. British Telecom

shares fell by 26½p to £10.58. The FTSE 100, which fell by 122 points at one stage, recovered to finish the day at 6,206.8, a net loss of 75.4 In an operation that began

with market briefings at 7am and involved all of ABN Amro's salesforce, working in co-operation with Cazenove. the block of 246 million shares was sold on to a wide range of institutions both in the UK and abroad at 735p a share, king the brokers a gross

profit of 10.80 per share.

A significant proportion of the shares were sold within ten minutes of the market opening and the transaction was completed within two hours. ABN Amro won the assignment following a competitive tender among securities

The size of the discount shocked some City analysts, given the recent strength of

telecommunications stocks. VEBA, however, said that its timing was precise because it

highly rated. It added that it was "very, very important" to the company to sell the shares in a single package because if it split the sale, it might not get so good a price if it were to sell a second tranche later in the

The company says it accepted the inevitable discount involved in selling such a large holding in a single transaction. ABN Amro, in turn, took the risk that it would be able to sell such a large stake before anything unexpected hap-

pened to the market. Veba bought its 10.2 per cent stake for DM2.5 billion in early 1995 as part of its alliance with C&W designed to tackle iointly both the German market in particular, and continental Europe in general.

Changes of management

over time at C&W led to a change in strategy, with the London-based company's priorities being given over to the development of its British operations into Cable & Wireless Communications, the cable group created by merging Mercury Communications and three cable groups.

"Since the dissolution of the alliance in the spring of 1997, Veba has viewed its shareholding as a financial investment that has shown extremely positive development," the German company said. Veba said it received more than DM5.1 billion, which means its return is more than double its original investment.

Stock market, page 30



Eurotunnel shares hit three-year high after profit boost

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Eurotunnel climbed above 100p for the first time in almost three years yesterday as the debt-laden Channel Tunnel operator said its operating profit has trebled.

The shares added 3p to 1015p - more than double the 451/2p low set in April last year. They are now ranked among the top 25 best-performers in London over the past 12 months. City analysts said the rise in the shares — which be-gan trading at 244p when it floated in December 1987 has been driven by hope that its financial restructuring is proving a success.

It recently negotiated a £4.4 billion debt-for-equity swap which left a £279 million exceptional gain from financial restructuring over 1998.

Patrick Ponsolle, executive chairman, warned the City that passenger numbers will fall this year when it is forced to put up ticket prices to cover the revenue that will be lost when duty-free shopping is abolished in the summer.

However, he predicted that this drop would be temporary. It expects additional income to be generated by large shopping centres that are being created on both sides of the Channel. Eurotunnel made £195 mil-

lion (£130 million) in retail sales for 1998 — making 32 per cent of group total, which jumped 26 per cent to £666 million. Before £378 million of debt repayments, operating profit was £184 million (£57 million) for 1998. The £279 million of exceptional profit from the refinancing left a £64 million net profit. Underlying losses were reduced to £215 million (£61) million).

M Ponsolle said operating performance had grown more quickly than expected but conceded that 1999 would be a year of "transition". He argued that the increase in fares should not adversely affect growth because fares had, in fact, fallen substantially since the launch of rail services.

Business Today



Anatole Kaletsky on Germany's economic U-turn

FTSE 100.... 6206.8 (-75.4) 2.56%

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CLOS London close \$289.95 (\$291.55) * denotes madday trading proces Exchange rates _____Page 28

Nationwide to | DuPont buys | German policy offer euro loan GM seed firm under attack

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

NATIONWIDE, the UK's big-that mortgage costs would rise gest building society, is to launch the first mortgage where the interest paid is linked to the European Central Bank rate.

Interest is set at 1.75 per cent above the ECB rate, giving a rate of 4.75 per cent, but borrowers will also benefit from a 1 per cent discount in the first year. The monthly interest pay-

ments on a £50,000 mortgage at 4.75 per cent are E186. On a standard Halifax mortgage, where the interest is currently 6.95 per cent, the monthly interest payments are E271. However, Halifax does offer a two-year, 2 per cent discount loan that matches the Nationwide rate.

Borrowers do not have to repay the Nationwide mortgage in euros, as it will operate in sterling. In the past, mortgages that took advantage of low interest rates in Europe were linked to a particular currency. The borrower took the risk

if sterling devalued.

The loan, which will be available from March 24, will

set the link with the ECB rate for ten years. There will be a penalty fee for early redemption. For the first five years of the mortgage, the penalty is set at nine months' interest; after that the redemption penalty begins to fall away. Nationwide refused to give

details about how it was able to offer the rate. It said that it had hedged against any unexpected currency fluctuations between the euro and sterling. The society said it had made only limited funds available, so the mortgages will be availa-

ble to those who meet the socie-

ty's lending criteria on a firstcome, first-served basis. The Government is committed to joining the European single currency in principle but has ruled it out during this Parliament. It has pledged a referendum on the issue.

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

DUPONT, the US chemical company, has raised the stakes in the competition for leadership in genetically modified crops with a \$7.7 billion (£4.75 billion) takeover of the

world's largest seed business. DuPont, which is rapidly transforming itself from a chemicals to life sciences group, is buying the outstanding 80 per cent of Pioneer Hi-Bred for \$7.7 billion. DuPont acquired a fifth of the company, which is based in Des Momes, Iowa, in January last year for \$1.7 billion and established a joint venture, Optimum Quality Grains, to devel-

op the new business. The investment by DuPont maintains the frenzied pace of billion-dollar acquisitions in the seeds sector by agribusiness and biotech companies. The investment provides further evidence that the controversy in Europe over GM foods is not deterring major agribusiness firms from pour-

ing money into the business.

Seed companies such as Pio-neer, which last year introduced 37 corn hybrids, are seen by some as vital to the success of any investment in genetically engineered crops. They provide the geneplasm in which new traits, such as resistance to insects or disease, can be incorporated, as well as distribution for the new crops.

Charles Holliday, chair-man of DuPont, said that the deal would create a businss with \$5 billion in sales, enabling Dupont "to speed new products to market. Charles Johnson, chairman of Pioneer, said: "Crop genetics offers tremendous potential for meeting the needs of farmers, agriculture and consumers around the world."

DuPont will have invested a total of \$9.4 billion in Pioneer on completion. The seed company had sales last year of \$1.8 billion and net income of \$270 million.

By Alasdair Murray, economics correspondent

EUROPEAN UNION finance ministers yesterday called on Germany to take tougher action to control its budget, giving warning that its economy is highly vulnerable to a fur-

ther slowdown in growth.
In the first Ecofin meeting since the resignation of Oskar Lafontaine last week, EU finance ministers wasted little time in launching an attack on the policies closely associated with the former German

Finance Minister. Ministers described the German deficit reduction plans as too modest claiming that the country is over-reliant on achieving a rapid return to eco-

nomic growth.

The EU also delivered a clear message to Herr Lafon-taine's successor, Hans Eichel, that he should not persist with plans to encourage inflationbusting pay deals. The finance ministers instead agreed that Germany needed "moderate wage developments and struc-

tural policies" to fight unem-

ployment Rodrigo Rato, the Spanish Finance Minister, added that the European Commission was likely to revise down its 1999 forecast for growth across the euro zone to about 2 per cent from 2.6 per cent. However, Señor Rato insisted that there are signs "which point to a recovery in the European economy in the second half of

this year". The warnings, however, failed to dent the euro, which enjoyed a firm day's trading on the foreign exchanges, making modest gains against both the pound and the dollar.

The euro climbed back to \$1.0935 — close to the level reached in the immediate aftermath of the resignation of Herr Lafontaine. The euro also firmed against the pound, climbing from 66.98p to 67.49p, while the pound lost more than a cent against the dollar to close at \$1.6216.

GRE quits HQ after 200 years

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange is poised to leave its headquarters at the Royal Exchange buildings in London's financial district, one of the City's most famous landmarks (Marianne

Curphey writes).
The building, in which GRE has been based for more than 200 years, could fetch up to £200 million, according to some analysts. A sale of the whole premises is unlikely, however. while other tenants, including State Street Bank of the United States, are happy to remain there. The Royal Exchange freehold is held by the City of London Corporation and the Mer-

cers Company.

Axa, the biggest insurance company in the world, won control of GRE after making a £3.5

billion bid last month. A number of other insurers. including the Prudential, are finding that their grandiose offices are no longer suitable for the new technology and trading systems required.

Commentary, page 29

Oui.

4.99% (5.3% APR) fixed to 31/3/2002.

John Charcol, to European - style UK mortgage rates.

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Besed on a 250,000 repayment mortgage on a property valued at 257,000 repaid over 25 years, 300 gross monthly repayments of 2295.34 at 4.99% (5.3% APR). Total amount payable gross £89,348.50 calcutated to include solicitor's fees of £117.50, arrangement fee of £295. John Charcol reservation fee of £49. Besed on a 250,000 repayment mortgage on a property valued at £57,000 repayment on the solicitor's fees of £190. The APR is 5.3% and is typical for a repayment ben over 25 years and assumes that on expiry of the fixed rate, the lender's Standard Variable Rate will remain at 4.99% (5.3% APR) for the remainder of the loan, in practice, this rate may defer valued rate has expired, APR may vary Mortgage recursed on property insurance may be required. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. Limited funds available. John Charcol operates through branches and franchises (who are Appointed Representatives) any of from the property assumed. After the todd rate has expired, APR may vary Mortgage recursed on property insurance may be required. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. Limited funds available. John Charcol operates through branches and franchises (who are Appointed Representatives) any of from the property and the standard franchises. (who are appointed Representatives) any of the presentation of the above examined. APR may vary Mortgage recursion fee of £49.

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Microsoft alliance targets Net users

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT is joining forces with Hewlett-Packard, Intel and Nortel to develop new products to enable office telephone networks to handle both voice and data communications. There is fierce competition among

technology companies trying to cre-

net, voice transmissions and data communications.

John Roth, the chief executive officer of Nortel, said products devised by the new partnership will incorporate voice with Internet Protocol, the standard by which data is carried on most computer networks. Mr Roth said: 'This is really about bringing

are new products that link the Inter- out products and capabilities to allow business customers to take full advantage of the Web for electronic commerce in ways that any one company

could not do." By sharing product information, the alliance will have a critical advantage over competitors who are also trying to make business on the Internet easier. At present, the private branch exchang-

es, or PBXs, that direct voice and fax network. Windows NT has been under calls in many businesses are not compatible with data transmissions.

Two new products were exhibited by Hewlett-Packard and Nortel at a briefing in San Jose, California, yesterday. The products will be designed to run on Microsoft's Windows NT software, a program that allows many computers within a single business to operate as a

pressure amid delays in delivering a software upgrade and competition from the free Linux network program.

The announcement follows an earlier alliance that aims to make the Internet accessible by voice over a telephone line. That group, which included British Telecom. is developing voice-recognition software.

Sales of homes building at Bovis

By ADAM JONES

THE recent revival in housebuilding shares was given fresh momentum yesterday when Bovis Homes said that sales in the first two months of 1999 were up on the same period of 1998

Bovis said that low inflation. low interest rates and rising earnings were helping to offset the slowdown in the UK economy. The number of reservations in January and February was up more than 10 per cent. and selling prices were about 2 per cent higher.

Malcolm Harris, chief executive, expects prices to rise by

Burford eyes up Europe

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the property company, hinted yesterday that an acquisition programme will see it looking for developments on the Continent (Robert Lea writes).

European deals may be aimed at adding to its fledgeling hotels joint ven-ture with the New York hotelier Ian Schrager. The company, which also said yesterday that it is lobbying for the paving over of London's Piccadilly, an-nounced pre-tax profits of £26.6 million (£24.7 million) for 1998. The total dividend rises 9 per cent to 2.5p per

Agenda

Submission of the confirmed

Financial Statements of Bayer AG

and the Bayer Group, the com-

Bayer AG and the Bayer Group.

visory Board for 1998; resolution

bined Management Report of

and the Report of the Super-

2. Ratification of the actions of the

3. Ratification of the actions of the

4. Conversion of the capital stock

and the authorized capital to the

euro currency; amendment to the

reserves to round the amount per

share in euros; amendment to

6. Authorization to issue convertible

bonds and/or bonds with warrants

attached; creation of conditional

capital and amendment to the

7. Remuneration of the Supervisory

of the Articles of Incorporation

8. Authorization to repurchase

9. Appointment of auditors

shares

Board; amendment to Article 10

Articles of Incorporation

on distribution of the profit

Board of Management

Articles of Incorporation

5. Capital increase out of capital

the Articles of Incorporation

Supervisory Board

4 per cent over the course of the full year, with completed sales rising from 2,303 homes to about 2500. The shares rose from 261%p to 273%p at the close of trading.

Bovis was reporting a 21 per cent increase in 1998 profits, which rose from £37.3 million in 1997 to £45 million, even though sales dropped from £248.9 million to £234.3 million. Mr Harris said that this had been achieved by adding extra features on homes, such as electronic garage doors and "farmhouse" kitchens, and keeping increases in the cost of building to minimum through greater standardisation.

However, Mr Harris complained that Bovis was still encountering planning delays, both on brownfield sites land which has had a former use - and virgin, greenfield land. He said that the process for appealing against plan-ning decisions needed to be accelerated.

Bovis now has enough plots with planning consent in reserve to cover the next four years, based on 1998 sales rates. However, Mr Harris estimated that only one third of its reserve sites were brownfield, even though the Government is pushing for house-builders to build 60 per cent of all new homes on recycled land. In 1998 just 34 per cent of Bovis's production was on brownfield land, up from 30 per cent in the previous year.

Adjusted earnings per share rose from 22.8p to 27.6p. A final dividend of 6.67p per share will make a total of 10p for the year.

Our stockholders are hereby invited to attend the

Annual Stockholders' Meeting

to be held on Friday, April 30, 1999 at 10.00 a.m. in the Congress Hall

(Half 8) of the Exhibition Center (Messe) in Cologne-Deutz, Germany.



Plan of campaign: Malcolm Harris, chief executive of Boyis, said that the housebuilder was encountering planning delays

Managers could leave Kalon

By Martin Barrow

SENIOR managers of Kalon Group could leave the UK

paints company if a proposed £500 million takeover by Total The managers are unhappy

at the prospect of losing their indepedence if the French oil

company, which already owns 63 per cent of Kalon, goes ahead with plans to buy in the outstanding shares. Total's interest is the legacy

of a 1995 deal in which Kalon merged with Euridep, Total's paints arm. Kalon has continued to operate as an autonomous business and directors

are keen to retain the separate Total's decision to buy out

Kalon's minority investors follows last year's agreement to merge with Petrofina to form one of Europe's largest oil companies. The enlarged Total will also own about 80 per cent of

paints business with about £700 million of sales. Kalon had hoped that Sigma would be re-versed into the British company, creating one of Europe's largest paints businesses.

Today the company is likely to report a 16 per cent fall in 1998 underlying pre-tax profits to about £38 million.

ASW to shed 300 staff in wake of Co-Steel merger

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ASW, the steelmaker based in Cardiff, is to cut 300 jobs as it merges operations with Co-Steel, the Sheerness steel producer it bought in December.

Graham Mackenzie, the new chief executive, who is also director-general of the Engineering Employers Federation, said that more plans to cut costs between the business-

month. ASW bought Co-Steel's Sheerness operation, a division of the Canadian company Co-Steel, for £40 million with the backing of Candover, the venture capital company. Candover now owns 45.1 per cent of the new business.

ASW saw its losses mount last year as poor steel prices and overcapacity helped to Tempus, page 30 es would be announced next push losses to £22 million for

the year to December 31, compared with a loss of £5.8 mil-lion in the previous year. However, Mr Mackenzie

said that there were signs of price improvements for the coming months. The loss per share climbed to 26.4p from 6.9p and again

there was no final dividend.

Glanbia chief attacks milk price

By Carl Mortished, international business editor

MILK PRICES in the UK, under investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. are too high because of Milk Marque's auction process, according to the managing-director designate of Glanbia, the Irish foods group.
"There has to be a better way

of doing it, a more transparent auctioning of milk," said Ned Sullivan, who added that the amount of British milk it takes

directly from farmers will rise to more than half its total in 1999. Cost-savings in the year to

January 2 from a reorganisation enabled Glanbia, formerly Avonmore Waterford, to raise pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits by 25 per cent to IrE75 million (£64 million) on sales down almost 3 per cent to lr£2.3 billion. Glanbia is raising the total dividend by 9 per

Beckett to set out 'bug' compliance tables

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MARGARET BECKETT, Leader of the Commons, will today set out league tables of how government departments and public services are faring in the race to make their computers millennium compliant. She will warn poor performers that time is running out.

Research by the Government into its own action and that of local authorities and public bodies shows that some programmes have slipped.

Mrs Beckett will say that there should be a greater use of independent assessment to check that programmes are on course — a move she will also press on businesses. She said: There can be a bit of a reality gap between those who think they are ready and those who

actually are."
The Government wants business to ensure the compliance of small companies - the sector which is the least prepared for the millennium - by pressing all companies to insist that their suppliers prove they are compliant.

By Paul Armstrong

cals group, has fought off diffimarket conditions to report a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £134 million for 1998. The result was slightly ahead

market expectations, but Laporte shares fell 31p to 626p amid forecasts of a flat 1999. Jim Leng. chief executive. gave warning that Laporte ex-pected no help this year from

the major economies in which A second interim dividend

of 17.25p was declared, taking the year's payout to 26.5p

Nissan shares rise over Renault talk

SHARES in Nissan, the Japanese carmaker, rose sharply yesterday amid speculation that Renault, the French manufacturer, is on the point of buying more than a third of its capital. Sources in Paris and Tokyo said the French company was pre-pared to pay at least £1.71 billion for a stake of between 34 and 40 per cent in its alling Japanese counterpart. The two groups would together form the world's fourth-biggest car manufacturer, with combined annual sales of 4.5 million vehicles.

Louis Schweitzer, Renault's chairman, met Yoshikazu Hanawa, the Nissan chairman, in Paris at the weekend. Their meeting spurred shares in Nissan, which recouped the 12 per cent loss incurred last week after the breakdown of talks with DaimlerChrysler, the German group that had also been interested in a stake. Renault is holding a board meeting today and analysts in Paris expect an announcement after-wards. The Japanese company has debts of £22 billion.

Celtic appointment

ALIAN MACDONALD, the managing director of BAe in Asia and Africa, is leaving to become the chief executive of Celtic, the Scottish Premier League football club. The move follows the appointment of Frank O'Callaghan, the hotelier. as chairman. The two will assume the day-to-day running of the company from Fergus McCann, the Scottish-Canadian financier who saved Celtic from ruin and now wants to sell out. Mr McCann has rejected a bid approach from a consorti-tim led by Kenny Dalglish and Jim Kerr.

Robert H Lowe in red

SEVERE problems within Robert H Lowe's sportswear division left the company with a pre-tax loss of E3.4 million in the year to October 31, compared with a profit of £4.1 million in the previous year. Turnover rose from £421 million to £44.5 million. With a loss per share of 2.34p (earnings of 2.76p) there will be no final dividend, meaning that there is no dividend payment for 1998. The company suffered the loss of adidas as a customer last year, causing the loss of 300 jobs. It said, however, that its packaging division should offer a "solid performance" this year.

Premiums warning

THE UK's largest insurers are poised to impose double-digit increases in insurance premiums in order to recover the costs of underwriting losses, restructuring and merger activities and provide better returns to shareholders, according to the British Investment and Insurance Brokers Association (BIIBA). Consumers renewing their insurance policy should not accept raised premiums as standard, BIIBA says, but should check with a broker to see if a cheaper al-

Bell plans flotation

BELL SECURITY, the high-tech alarms and surveillance business, aims to raise up to £21 million with a flotation on the London stock market, the company announced yesterday. Bell, which plans to sell up to 30 per cent of its equity, is expected to be valued at about £70 million. Bell specialises in installing and maintaining intruder detection systems, closedcircuit television, fire alarms and systems for controlling site and building access. The group reported pre-tax profits of £3.8 million in 1998 on sales of 34.1 million.

Benchmark on the up

BENCHMARK GROUP, the Central London property investment and development company, lifted net asset value to 247.3p a share from 197.3p in the six months to December 31. At the pre-tax level; profits fell to £8 million from £8.7 million. Net rental income was £10.5 million, compared with £10.3 million in the first half of the previous year. During the first half of the year, the company raised £49.5 million by way of an issue of unsecured loan stock. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.75p a share from 1.65p.

Lavendon improves

SHARES of Lavendon Group rose 25p to 330p yesterday after the powered access rental company reported a 52 per cent rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £7 million. Earnings were 20.64p a share, up 28 per cent over 1997. The total dividend rises 20 per cent to 4.70 a share, with a 3.20 final. David Price, chairman and chief executive, said that he expected the company to increase market share again in 1999. Operating margins would benefit as the depot network, including 20 new branches, became better estabished. Lavendon shares peaked at 545p last year.

Ruberoid shares slide

SHARES of Ruberoid fell 6p to 93p yesterday after the waterproofing systems and protective coatings company, proposed an unchanged dividend of 6.1p a share for 1998. Pre-tax profits from continuing operations rose to £7.5 million from £6.5 million during a year of restructuring, when a lengthy disposal programme was completed. Adjusted earnings improved to 9.9p a share from 8.7p. The board has declared a second interim dividend of 4.2p a share. David Kendall, chairman. said that the company would make further progress in 1999.

Spirax lifts dividend

SPIRAX-SARCO, the engineering company, is lifting the total dividend for the year to December 31, 1998, to 16.5p a share from 15.8p, in spite of an 11 per cent fall in underlying pre-tax profits to £42.3 million. In addition, there was an exceptional charge of £11.6 million to cover relocation of the company's US plant, reducing 1998 pre-tax profits to £30.64 million from £47.7 million and earnings to 24.1p a share from 38.3p. Turnover of £249 million compared with £265.6 million previously. The final dividend is 11.5p a share.

Warning after Laporte rise

LAPORTE, the niche chemi-

EXCHANGE RATES

Under Section 125 of the German Companies Act, the Board of Management is only obliged to provide information on proposals and nominations that may be made by shareholders if the parties concerned prove their standing as shareholders in good time.

Copies of the Company's Annual

Report for 1998 in English will be

available from SBC Warburg

United Kingdom Shareholders

who wish to attend and vote at

should by 22nd April, 1999, inform

SBC Warburg Dillon Read, Paying

London EC2M 2PP, who will make

the necessary arrangements on

The complete version of the Invi-

tation to the Annual Stockholders'

Meeting, containing the texts of the

proposed resolutions, will be found

in the Bundesanzeiger No. 51 of

March 16, 1999. Please refer to

this publication for further details

of the Agenda and the conditions

for attending the Meeting.

the Annual General Meeting

Agency, 1 Finsbury Avenue,

Dillon Read.

their behalf.

Leverkusen, Germany March 16, 1999

The Board of Management of Bayer Aktiengesellschaft Dr. Schneider Wenning

Rates for small denomination bank-

notes only as supplied by Bardays Bank, Different rates apply to travel-ler's cheques. Rates as at close of

The European Index-Tracking PEP

"Source Micropal/LGIM on an offer to bid hasts based on all PEP charges with grow microtic re-invested from launch (IL PL) to (IL PL) 9. Past increase from lamed II. 19, by ut II. 24, 19, Page performance is not necessarily a guale to inture performance. From the US 04, 99, Page curding and UK dividend distributions will only be able to be rectained by PaPs at a reduced rare of 10% Both capital and memore raises may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount put towersed. The exchange rare variabless may chose the value of overview investments to increase or decrease. Full written details are available on request All statements are correct as at 01,03 or The Government have annotated that crossributions can only be made to PEPs made [1999 from that date a new text prestiged savings which the third-raised savings before it in the control of the Court of the Cour (Date-1) United Registered to England No. 270/2008. Registered Office Tempire Court. If Queen Victoria Street, London EU-N 417 Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Infoestment Authority and IMBO for the purposes of recommending, advistig on and selling the assurance and investment produces bearing Legal & General street.

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the first profits from Eurotunnel may be illusory but the light is real. It would take more than the efforts of a few striking Frenchmen to extinguish the mood of optimism that now emanates from the company.

The tunnel is now increasing its business, both in freight and passenger numbers. Patrick Ponsolle reckons that he can travel from Paris to London in two hours and 40 minutes, even if other travellers do not always find the journey quite so speedy. Eurostar still offers a remarkably fast, and comfortable, route from city centre to city centre. If the financial debacle of Eurotunnel's beginnings can be put to one side, it is a remarkable achievement.

But investors do not easily forgive companies for financial incompetence even if they demonstrate engineering excellence. Eurotunnel has had to go through a period of rehabilitation. The share price indicates that it is now close to being allowed a fresh start. The indications now are that it will be more than able to cover its interest bill by 2003, and profits should flow swiftly from then on.

The loss of duty-free sales will cause less of a dent to its numbers than to the ferry operators, although it will be used to explain an increase in fares. The company has high hopes that BAA, with all its experience of persuading air travellers to part with far more cash than they had intended to, while they browse

Tunnel hides bushel under a light

through the departure lounge, will be able to work the same trick at either end of the tunnel.

But how else does a tunnel owner maximise its income? M Ponsolle and his colleagues are now giving some thought as to where Eurotunnel goes from here. Running optical fibre through the tunnel was an obvious first add-on to its main business but then what? Only a very brave individual would risk talking aloud about digging a second tunnel at this delicate phase in the company's rapprochement with the investment community.

with the investment community. There may be a stage when a second tunnel does make economic sense: the lessons of the first should make construction costs rather more containable. But that time is far off.

So what else can Eurotunnel offer by way of growth prospects? It is a genuine Anglo-French company, which is a rarity. Would there be takers for consultancy services on how this unlikely combination can be made to work in the new Europe? Probably a very limited market, at least unless and until Britain embraces the euro.

Then what scope is there for selling other services to Eurotunnel users? There are many of them who are now regular cus-



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

tomers. Some, it must be concluded, are travelling back from France with their vans packed with booze and cigarettes, of which the Chancellor would not approve. Eurotunnel would like to be able to help to curb the smugglers: they tend to upset other passengers. But if the other regulars might be in the mood to buy financial services or language lessons. Eurotunnel may be in the market to supply them.

Fortune favours the brave in C&W deal

the City is not just a casino but it does reward those prepared to take risks — if they make the right call. For just a few hours, ABN Amro and Cazenove were the owners of a tenth of Cable & Wireless. They bought the shares and gambled that they would be able to sell them at a higher price, and fast. They succeeded in doing just that and their rewards are huge: even Bill Gates would goggle at £27

million being earned so rapidly.
But the players should not be begrudged their winnings. Bought
deals are notoriously difficult to
do, and this was a mammoth one.
For ABN Amro's Nick Bannister,
his brief spell as a Cable & Wireless shareholder was akin to
swimming with sharks.
Less adventurous characters

than he still quake at the recollection of a 1990 transaction that guaranteed bought deals their scary status. Kleinwort Benson agreed to relieve Burmah Oil of a troublesome stake in Premier Consolidated Oil. The firm bought the £138 million stake at 99p a share, hoping to turn it rapidly at 103p. But takers were there none. Eventually, Kleinwort had to settle for selling at just 78p, taking a £34 million hit. The resignation of Charles Hue Williams, then in charge of the bank's securities division, soon followed.

It was said that City rivals objected to the margin Kleinwort intended to make on the deal. ABN and Cazenove cut their price less greedily but, because of the discount to the market price, they ensured that, barring an international catastrophe, they would get the stock away.

International catastrophes do happen, but rarely. Had yesterday been the day that Microsoft revealed a secret plan for taking over the entire telecoms scene it just might have been enough to throw out the bank's most careful calculations. But it did not.

ful calculations. But it did not.

Veba was happy to take its profit on the shares and leave something for the next man. Apart from the tidy profit for ABN and Cazenove, that also means an instant uplift for those who took the C&W shares from them. Although C&W took an instant hit, the price is still well above the 735p at which the institutions bought yesterday, and the chances are that it will quickly recover much of yesterday's fall.

Veba put the deal out for tender, so we can conclude that other houses were even more cautious in their pricing than ABN. For Mr Bannister, winning the mandate, and successfully concluding the deal, represents a huge milestone in his efforts to reposition the bank. This was effectively a European deal conducted through European houses: not the mighty bulge bracket American investment banks which usually dominate the scene.

Life's a beach for captains of industry

usiness life can be almost as tough as politics. While poor John Prescott has been having to cope with the rigours of a 12-day visit to India and the Maldives, so have a group of wage slaves from the private sector.

The Government takes the view that when ministers venture overseas, it makes sense for them to be accompanied by a retinue of businessmen. In theory, the aim is to help to drum up much-needed export business. Who could blame the politicians if they did not also harbour the wish to drag a few fat cats away from their comfortable offices to experience the sacrifices that our

leaders are prepared to make?

Those who accompanied the
Deputy Prime Minister on this
visit have been forced to endure

nights in luxury hotels and island-hopping on a vast cruiser. They have been subjected to the discomfort of a helicopter trip to the Taj Mahal. They have seen the pugilistic Mr Prescott battling for Britain, confronting tigers and coral reefs, if not trade barriers.

No doubt the businessmen have been duly impressed. It they took their cameras along perhaps they could show the photographs to liven up the next annual meeting. Shareholders in Anglian Water. National Grid and BG would surely be thrilled at the chance to share, if only on celluloid, the experiences of the executives they each sent to accompany Mr Prescott.

company Mr Prescott.

Details of the contracts that have been won as a result of the expedition might come later — much, much later.

Royally appointed

WHO WILL BE the next inhabitants of the splendid Royal Exchange building in the heart of the Square Mile? It has been judged surplus to requirements by the new owners of Guardian Royal Exchange: its layout is not ideal for a modern finance house and its status as a listed building makes that hard to change. Business-like banks would rather head to Canary Wharf. Yet for a chairman keen to impress. Royal Exchange will have its attractions. If a fountain in the foyer or a new Roller for the boss signal danger, beware the organisation that heads to Royal Exchange.

Buyback plan hits Tomkins

By Paul Armstrong

SHARES in Tomkins, the engineering conglomerate, fell 10p to 224½p yesterday after the company unveiled a £417.5 million plan to buy back up to 15 per cent of its stock.

Analysts blamed the drop on Tomkins's admission that it had failed to find suitable acquisitions in the past year, making the buyback its most attractive option.

Tomkins has asked shareholders to offer stock at prices between 220p and 250p. The company will set a final price when the tender closes on April 16, the day shareholders will vote on the scheme. The tender range repre-

sents a premium of up to 21.4
per cent over the middle market price of 206p on Thursday, a day before Tomkins revealed its buyback intentions.
Tomkins also said yesterday that it would sell its UK

and US mowing, snowblowing and bicycle interests. It refused to reveal the carrying value of these businesses.

value of these businesses.

But it plans to retain Smith & Wesson, the gunmaker which is the subject of legal ac-

SHARES in Tomkins, the tion in the US for alleged engineering conglomerate, negligence.

Tomkins spent E741 million on bolt-on acquisitions and E88 million on share buybacks in the year to May 2.

But Greg Hutchings, executive chairman, said yesterday that the group had been unable to repeat this in the past year despite having studied more potential purchases than ever before.

Mr Hutchings said none of the prospective acquisitions would have generated sufficient returns.

A stated lack of suitable purchases, combined with the cheap price of debt relative to equity, has fuelled a surge in share buybacks across many sectors in recent months.

Guy Hewett, an analyst with Charterhouse Securities, has forecast that Tomkins will report earnings per share of 23.6p for the year to May 1,

This puts the company on a prospective multiple of just 9.5 times, reflecting the market's dislike of its diversified asset portfolio.

Fairey's ten-year hitch

By Adam Jones

SHARES in Fairey, the electronics group, slumped nearly 10 per cent after profits fell for the first time in ten years.

The impact of the Asian financial crisis, which led to overcapacity in the semiconductors market, was worse than Fairey expected. Headline profits for 1998 rose from £52.2 million to £67.2 million, but only because Fairey made an exceptional profit of nearly £37 million on the sale of its aerospace business. Underlying profit fell 41 per cent to £34.2 million.

Fairey was forced to make II per cent of its staff redundant during the year, at a cost of £1.5 million. It said it was "Cautious" about short-term prospects, with demand unlikely no improve before the latter part of the year. Normalised earnings per share fell from 35.7p to 21.7p. A dividend of 7.3p will be paid, making a total of 10.5p for the year, up 5 per cent.

Rockware sold to Ardagh

By Fraser Nelson

ARDAGH, the Irish packaging and containers company, has become the second-largest player in Britain's glass market after paying £247 million for Rockware in a sale forced by EU competition officials.

After eight months of talks. it has agreed terms to buy Rockware from Owens-Illinois, the American company which bought BTR's glass and packaging arm for £2.2

billion just over a year ago.

Owens-Hinois was ordered to sell Rockware because it already controlled 35 per cent of the UK glass market through its United Glass subsidiary. Rockware has a 31 per cent share. Ardagh said that there would be no factory closures at either Knottingley and Doncaster, which employ about 1.000 workers. Owens-Illinois recently decided close its Merseyside factory at the cost of 400 jobs — blaming overcapacity in the industry.

Abbey subsidiary loan pursuit in OFT action

By CAROLINE MERRELL

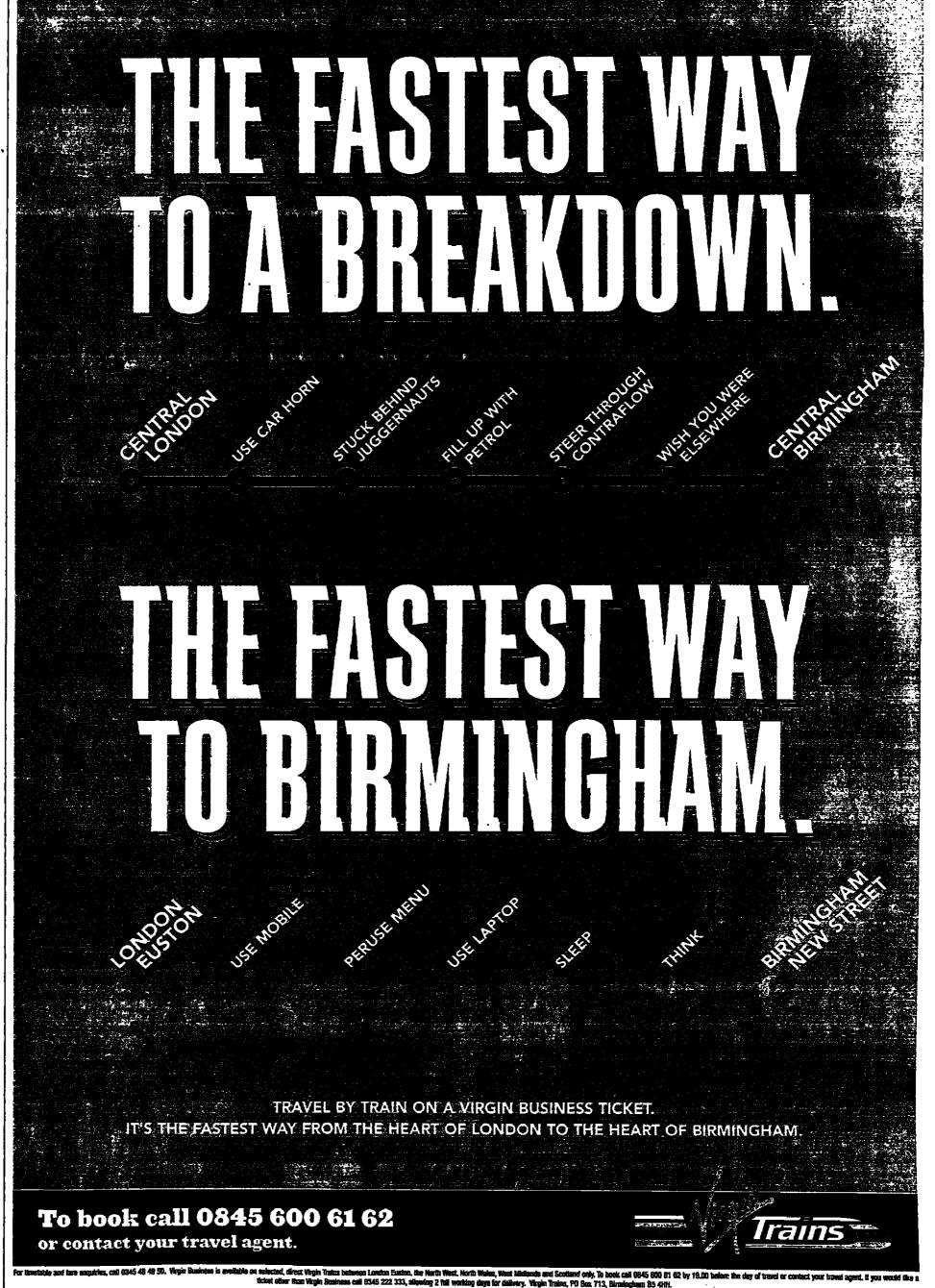
THE Office of Fair Trading is suing an Abbey National subsidiary over a clause in its unsecured loan agreement that allows it to charge interest to customers that have been to court because they cannot keep up

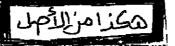
their repayments.

The landmark case, the first the OFT has bought under the 1994 Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations, could have implications for

many lenders. The preliminary hearing tomorrow is against First National, a subsidiary of Abbey National. Loans offered by First Nation-

al average £4,000. Under the terms of its consumer contract, the lender reserves the right to charge its borrowers interest, even if a court has agreed a sum for a borrower to pay off the outstanding debt. First National is defending the action.







Telecoms undermined by Veba's C&W sell-off

VEBA'S sale of its 10.2 per cent stake in Cable & Wireless com-bined to undermine the telecom sector and starve the rest

of the equity market of funds. The 246.19 million shares in C&W were bought jointly by brokers ABN Amro and Cazenove at 724p. They later sold them on to institutions at 735p. netting a profit of £27 million.

The sale was oversubscribed. One broker applied for about £300,000 of stock and was subscribed less than 15 per cent. C&W finished 79½p down at 751p on turn-over of 528.58 million shares. That compares with total turnover for the market of 1.49 billion shares.

Telecom stocks slipped as funds were drained out of the system and institutions began adjusting their weightings in the sector. Telewest, reporting later today, fell 20%p to 243%p. There were also losses for COLT Telecom. 51p to 939p. Securicor, 17p to 5314p. Cable & Wireless Communications. 29p to 699p, Orange, 194:p to 8984:p, and British Telecom, 264:p to £10.58.

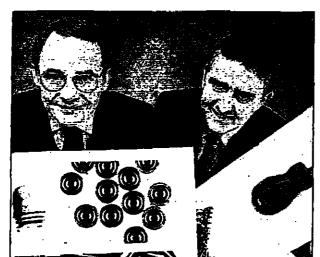
What with this and Friday's disappointing turn out on Wall Street, the rest of the equity market experienced a diffi-cult session. Prices, however, managed to close above their worst levels of the day, helped by opening gains for the Dow Jones industrial average.

The FTSE 100 index down almost 123 points at one stage. eventually reduced the deficit to 75.4 at 6,206.8. The FTSE 250 index also shed 41.9 to

Among blue chips, Reed international rallied 25%p to 525%p after last week's disappointing trading news. ICI, up lip at 547p and WPP, 15p dearer at 529 p, also finished higher on the day. But there were losses for Standard Chartered, 42½p to 897½p, Hanson, 25%p to 569p and Bass, 384p to 9264p.

First Choice Holidays retreated 1414p to 173p as the market digested the proposed merger with Kuoni Reisen. Switzerland's package holiday operator, to form a £1.45 billion company. City specula-tors reckon it is unlikely that rivals such as Airtours, up 7/2p to 5071/2p, will do much to deny Kuoni a free run.

AIM-listed SCi Entertainment was chased 22p higher to



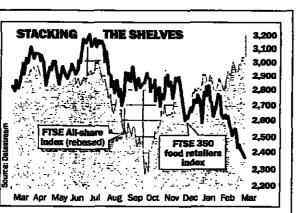
Jim Leng, chief executive, left, and Michael Kayser, finance director of Laporte, saw shares of the engineer dip 31p to 626p

reason, other than favourable press comment, for the rise. Lynx Group receded 74p to 214p despite news of share buying by several directors. Stewart Douglas-Mann, chairman, has bought 10,000 at 22lp taking his holding to 20,000, while June de Moller, non executive director, also picked up

10,000 at 222p. Terranova was unmoved at

1041/2p after rejecting a takeover approach from an unnamed suitor. The company said the terms would have undervalued the business. Shares of Waste Recycling were suspended at 525p pending an announcement Microgen Holdings firmed

31/2p to 1231/2p with the help of a buy recommendation from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.



THE supermarket chains had a mixed session ahead of publication this week of the Office of Fair Trading's inquiry into the prices they

Charge.
J Sainsbury firmed 24p to 3474 p. Asda 1p to 1454 p. Morrisons Supermarkets 6p to 282p, and Somerfield 1½p to 343p. But there were falls for Tesco, 2½p at 162p. and Shoprite, 24p to 204p. Weekend reports suggest

that the report from the OFT will be less swingeing than earlier expectations. such as Tesco and Asda, recently embarked on a damaging fresh round of price

Lines on selected items

were reduced in order to

bolster market share. Bro-

kers fear it could have impact on earnings growth. Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, yesterday cut its average earnings growth forecast for the supermarket sector for the vear to March 2000, from

7.5 per cent to 4 per cent. It expects the sector to

of 260p for the end of 2000. Hopes are high that Quality Products, up 374:p to 4924:p. will come up with the goods when it unveils final results on Wednesday week. Brokers say earnings could come in 50 per cent higher accompanied by news of further e-commerce contracts. Scotia Holdings was also being chased higher ahead of

results later this month finishing 54p dearer at 77p. The market is anxious for a further update of the group's link with General Mills, the food group, to develop its hunger suppressant compound. A "buy" rec-ommendation from WestLB Panmure, the broker, was good for a rise of 43p to 51614p Shire Pharmaceuticals The broker has also upgraded its pre-tax profit forecast from £16 million to £20 million.

Petra Diamonds was teady at 711/2p after dropping IA Pritchard Stockbrokers as adviser. It has appointed Seymour Pierce instead.

Late news on Friday, that Tracker Network was in talks that could lead to a management buyout, continued to fuel the shares, up 70p to 580p.

Speculation that the Government will give BSkyB the goahead to bid for Manchester United, providing certain conditions are met, lifted the Premiership side 9p to 240p, after touching 245p. BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, slipped 54p to 5574p.
AIM-listed BATM Ad-

vanced rose 32p to 295p ahead of a series of presentations with brokers and fund managers later this week.

☐ GILT-EDGED: Trading in the bond market was some of the quietest recorded this year. Investors stayed away ahead of this week's stream of economics data that includes retails sales, unemployment, average earnings and the Mone-tary Policy Committee meeting minutes. In the futures pit, the June se-

KBC Adv

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ries of the long gilt finished un-moved at £116.64 as 13,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 eased 2p to £145.90 as did Treasury 7 per cent 2002 on £106.49.

NEW YORK: US shares were broadly higher as Wall Steet edged towards the 10,000. mark. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 65.22 points to 9,941.57.

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deal would be damaging to its business and put on hold ranonalisation at this crucial stage in the industry's development.

First Choice and Kuoni, meanwhile, have almost no overlaps. This has the advantage of little risk of referral but the disadvantage of allowing few cost savings.

Even after yesterday's fall in First Choice's share price, they are on a far higher rating than when the bid rumours started flying. It still lags behind Airtours, which is rated on about 19 times 1999 earnings compared with First Choice's 15 times, but Airtours is favoured by investors for its strong, entrepreneurial management.

The structure of the deal means that First Choice and Kuoni will still have the resources to join in further industry consolidation. The shares are worth holding on to.

Bovis Homes

INVESTORS have started realising that housebuilding stocks have been oversold prompting a revival that has managed to survive Gordon Brown's decision to abolish tax relief on mortgage inter-est payments last week.

THE market's reaction to the announcement of the merger of First Choice and Kuoni was hardly flattering, but it was understandable. The fall in the First Choice share price was

mainly attributable to the fading expectation

that Airtours or Preussag, which controls Thomas Cook, will step in with a better offer.

In terms of immediate rewards for share-

holders, there is no doubt that putting First

Choice together with either Airtours or Tho-

mas Cook would bring about swift and size-

able cost savings and significant UK market share gains — neither of which are on offer

with the Kuoni deal. It is a moot point wheth-

er the competition authorities in the UK and Europe would allow a deal between First

Choice and its domestic market competitors.

First Choice says that a referral to the MMC

or the European Commission on a domestic

The old thinking said that housebuilding is too cyclical. a suspicion that was heightened by the recent boom in London. With UK growth faltering, the stocks were then marked down savagely.

Investors now appear to believe that low interest rates and low inflation will keep the market steady at least. In this environment. Bovis stands out as something of a blue chip stock. It has exemplary profit margins — 19.3 per cent in 1998 at the operating level, against 12.5 per cent elsewhere — and its ping 4.1 years' worth of plots per cent of Bovis homes were on recycled land last year. with planning consent.

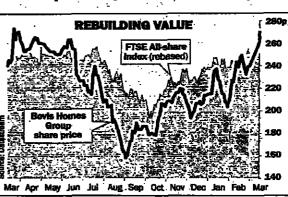
It is also appreciably more But it is not yet clear how upbeat about this year's trading than the bulk of its com-

A choice selection

that it is a long way away earnings this year. The from the 60 per cent target set shares may well go higher by John Prescott, the Deputy now that they have the mo-Prime Minister, for brown- mentum that was lacking in field development. Only 34 the sector for so long.

for those who fall short One downside is the fact about 8.5 times' predicted

Bovis is still trading at



Laporte

IT SEEMS the pharmaceutisharpce early ause of ey divi-

led

exposure to Asia and Latin America. While Laporte's electronics division has not escaped lightly, management has responded by slashing costs, and there appears scope for recovery later this year.

The strong market posi-tion enjoyed by many of the company's chemicals and its healthy profit margins are also reasons for optimism. But most of these attributes are already factored into the share price, leaving limited upside in the short term. Beyond then, Laporte is

well placed to reap the bene-. fits of its heavy research and development program as well as a strong management team. Buy for the long!

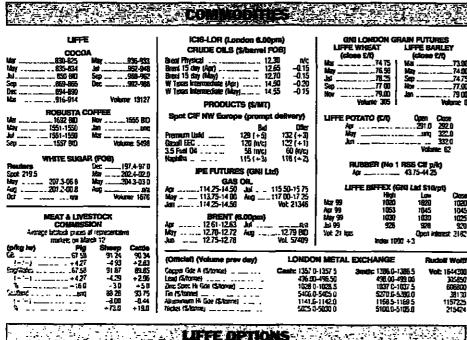
ASW

THE small steelmaker has struggled valiantly to survive. Amid tumbling steel prices and overcapacity, the thanks in part to its limited sho attract private equity back-

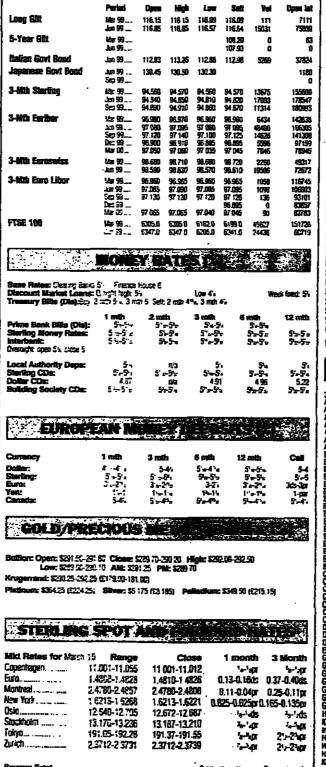
ing so that it could buy its former rival Co-Steel and become the number two to British Steel. This is no mean feat for a small company because venture capitalists increasingly shun the smaller

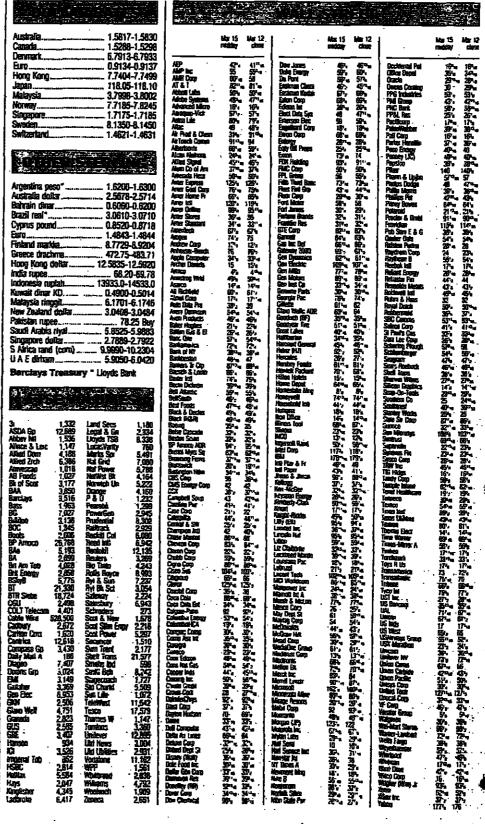
Merging forces with Co-Steel, the Kent business, will enable the operation to cut some costs and to weather better the lack of demand in its markets. Yesterday we saw some initial efficiencies from the December purchase with the announcement of 300 job losses. There should be more to come. Some have calculated that £24 million of annual costs could come out for a restructuring charge of about £10 million.

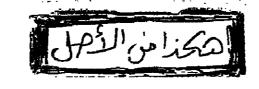
Meanwhile, losses will continue - both the Cardiff and Kent steel production centres are trading at a loss - before ASW turns the corner later this year. Then it should also benefit from an upturn in the steel market.



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Have you noticed that

ECONOMIC VIEW



Germany is attempting to make U-turn in a cul-de-sac

Membership of EMU has

cut off the

options for a much-needed

devaluation

or socialists and environmentalists around the world, who dreamt of mounting a cha-lenge to the global hegemony of American free-market capitalism, the dream ended last Thursday. It did not end with the bang of the crashing Berlin Wall or the disintegrating Soviet Union. It ended with the whimper of the sudden, mysterious resignation of Germany's Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine

Herr Lafontaine's resigna-tion inspired a modest celebration on the Frankfurt stock exchange on Friday. But for once, the financial speculators could be accused of being too calm. A 5 per cent jump in Frankfurt's DAX index and a two cent appreciation of the euro hardly seemed to do justice to an event of such historic importance. Most analysts and businessmen are taking the undestandably sceptical view that one man's departure is not going to transform eco-nomic conditions in Germany. still less in the whole of Europe, and therefore that the cautious response seen in the markets since last Thursday is about right. This time, however, a bit more excitement seemed appropriate.

Herr Lafontaine's resignation was a truly historic event, at least comparable to the policy U-turn performed by France in 1983, when President Mitterrand abandoned his attempt to create "socialism in one country" by nation-alising the banks and follow-ing a Keynesian policy of demand expansion. That U-turn laid the foundation for the European monetary union by creating a strong franc and -rench inflation to below the German level, at the cost of a fourfold increase in French unemployment. Mitterrand's decision to abandon socialism also triggered a surge in French share prices that overshadowed even the bull market on Wall Street. Today, the political, economic and financial consequences of Germany abandoning its even flirtation with "socialism in one country" could be every bit as dramatic as those of the French U-turn.

With Herr Lafontaine now not just gone, but completely discredited by his erratic behaviour, this campaign to create a new economic model that would offer Europe the benefits of global capitalism without the social upheavals and perceived injustices, will almost certainly collapse. Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, was always un-comfortable with the Lafontaine-Jospin leftist vision and hinted before the German election that he might prefer to form a "grand coalition" with

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE GERMAN ECONOMY? **HOURLY LABOUR COSTS IN MANUFACTURING*** US-100 EXPORT PERFORMANCE* *% change in ratio of growth of export volumes to growth of export 1995 INFLOWS OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

the Christian Democrats, rather than building an anti-capitalist alliance with the radical Greens. Now that Herr Schrö der has been unexpectedly released from his political obli-gations to the Left of his own party, he is likely to move back to a traditional businesstinguishable from that of Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats. If anything, his attempts to make the German tax and regulatory systems more favourable to business and investment, are likely to be more successful than those of the Kohl Government. since he will not have to worry about parliamentary obstruction from the Left.

Why, then, is there so much scepticism about whether business conditions in Germany will really move towards the Anglo-Saxon capitalist model? There seem to be three possible

The first is that even in the German business community, which will from now on call the shots in the Schröder Government, there are deep worries about the "excesses" of Anglo-Saxon free market economics. Big business in Germany has a strong interest in mainmining regulations, subsidies and tax preferences that protect it from low-cost competition. But the balance of opinion

munity is clearly moving away from regulation and towards freer markets. This is a more or less inevitable response to the pressures on German managers from international (mainly American) shareholders and competitors. For this reason, ness in favour of Americanstyle capitalism are bound to intensify and ultimately prevail. The recent demand from

directors of DamilerChrysler

that their salaries should be

partly taxed under the US tax

code is an amusing straw in

the wind.

in the German business com-

he second reason for scepticism about a German U-turn is that free market tax reform and deregulation are very long, painful and uncertain processes. It cannot be expected pay off for many years. Even where reform has been pursued with the zeal of a Thatcher or Reagan, it has taken ten to 15 years to deliver positive results in the form of higher growth and lower unemployment. Herr Schröder thus cannot hope to become a darling of the business community, or indeed of the voters, in the

same way as Tony Blair. Mr

Blair's policies are popular and economically successful be-

cause they are building on the

foundations laid by the nowhated Tories. But Herr Schrö der will have to take responsibility for unpopular Thatcher-ite policies himself.

He will have to resist

strikes, to cut wages, to break

professional and business monopolies, to cut public spendtribute the tax burden from investment and employment on to the income and consumption taxes paid by ordinary voters. Obviously the German Government is unlikely to mover very fast in pursuing such a Thatcherite agenda, especially if Herr Schrö der is determined to stick to a consensus-based tripartite approach. However, the direction of motion should be clear and Germany starts from a much more favourable position than did Britain in 1979. Its labour relations and management are excellent. Many of its industries are strong. Most importantly, Herr Schrö der could enjoy a much more favourable macroeconomic environment than the one that faced Margaret Thatcher in 1979 and President Reagan

in 1980. This leads to the third big question about the German Uturn: what affect will it have on macroeconomic policy? The most important problem facing the German economy to-

day is not about regulation, competition or tax reform. It is the macroeconomic problem il-lustrated in the top chart. Germany's labour costs are far out of line with international competition — 50 per cent above the Amercian and French lev-els and almost twice as high as in Britain, notwithstanding the supposedly overvalued pound. ome of the dire effects of these uncompetitive costs are illustrated in the charts below. Germany, far from being an export "powerhouse", can no longer hold its own in world markets. In terms of export performance, as measured by the OECD's ratio of export growth to the growth of export markets, Germany has lagged far behind America and signicantly behind the rest of Europe in Il out of the past 13 years (see middle chart). And even the surprisingly weak figures on Germany's export performance have been deceptively flattering. Most of Germany's exports are produced by capitalintensive industries on the basis of costs already sunk into existing factories. When it comes to new investment. Germany's lack of competitiveness is even more striking. This is illustrated in the bottom chart, which shows that Germany has received virtually no foreign investment in the last decade. Uniquely among the OECD countries, Germany actually suffered a net outflow of for-

Trom a macroeconomic perspective, all of these figures add up to a simple and clear conclu-Germany desperately needs a devaluation to bring its costs into line with competitor countries. But herein lies Germany's real economic conundrum. By joining EMU, Germany has closed off the option of devaluing against France, Italy and the rest of Europe. To make matters worse, it has created a structure that limits inflation in the rest of Europe and therefore makes it impossible for German industry to regain its competitiveness

eign investment in each of the

last two years.

by keeping its inflation signifi-This leaves Germany with two options: to persuade the whole of Europe to devalue against the dollar, yen and pound; or to shift its industrial structure to rely far more on domestic consumption and non-tradeable services than on exports for future growth Herr Lafontaine, to his credit appeared to understand this counsundrum, which was why he pressured so hard for expansionary monetary poli-cies from the European Cen-tral Bank. Ironically, of course, the ECB was least likely to deliver these policies under the overt hectoring from Herr Lafontaine.

The most important ques-tion for Germany and Europe today is whether the ECB will move towards and expansion move towards and expansion-ary policy now that Herr Lafon-taine is gone. If it does, the Ger-man U-turn could turn out to be surprisingly successful. If it does not. Cermany and the rest of Europe will be doomed to a period of economic and so-cial dislocation which will con-vince many more Cermannvince many more Germans that Herr Lafontaine's forebodings about free markets and capitalism were right after all.

Why many women are slipping through the Net

eg Ryan may, or may not, be a role model for many women in this country. But, by romancing Tom Hanks across the internet in her latest film. You've Got Mail, she has shown she has something that 83 per cent of British women do not have. No, I'm not talking about a cute little nose that wrinkles up when she smiles: I'm talking about confidence when purchasing products to access the Internet.

According to a new study by James Murphy, an independent analyst formerly of The Henley Centre, there is a massive gap between women's interest in new technology and their confidence when they

think about buying it.
The study, published this week by marketing services firm Cohn & Wolfe and called Women & Technology: the challenge for marketeers, quizzed 1,000 adults, 570 of whom were female. It found that, while 38 per cent of wornen said they were either quite or very interested in Internet products, only 17 per cent felt confident enough to purchase them. This compares with only 31 per cent of men saying they were interested in Internet access yet 48 per cent say-ing they would feel confident in buying the services.

This pattern is repeated with personal computers. While 53 per cent of women were interested in buying a PC, only 31 per cent felt they would be happy to go into a shop and buy one. For men 60 per cent were interested in PCs, and 50 per cent said they'd be quite happy popping into PC World

So why are there these discrepancies? Do woman naturally find it difficult to choose between Yahoo and Excite, do they not know their Compacs from their Dells or are they confused as to whether they have to throw out their Pentium processors when the Pentium II or Pentium III turns up? Or is it that the IT companies are not taking enough time to communicate with one half of the population?

The evidence that it could be the latter comes from other questions asked by Murphy. For example, 56 per cent of women are interested in buying a mobile phone and 54 per cent would feel confident enough to duy one. For kitch en appliances - the interest figure is 70 per cent and the confidence figure is 80 per cent. Is there that much difference between buying a PC and buying a fridge-freezer?

The simple fact is that most IT firms do not bother to try to win over the female customer. Most adverts for computer products tend to feature men (interestingly, the IT firms are perhaps more racially aware than almost any other sector, so there is a high proportion of Asian or Afro-Caribbean men featured). They tend to be placed in publications aimed at the men's market - so you might find PC ads in GQ or FHM but you would be lucky if you spotted any in Vogue or

Cosmopolitan. Yet, as Murphy argues: You do not have to be Germaine Greer to spot the sea change in women's professional life, buying power and position in society over the past 15 to 20 years. IT firms might be at the cutting edge in technology, but in their



marketing many are danger

ously out of date." Take the marketing for mobile phones. Nokia has been incredibly successful, partially because it has made its mobile phones a fashion accessory. The latest silver Nokia, which was such a hit over Christmas, is designed to slip into a handbag between a lipstick and a purse.

In computers French compa-

PACE LEADER

nies have long realised the importance of women in their market - as is shown by the France Telecom advert below which shows a woman in a professional environment rarely shown in the UK. Alcatel has long had a range of different colours and designs for its IT products. Apple is one of the ew computer-makers to start thinking about the look of its products and its new iMac was recently described by a feminist writer as "curvaceous. sexy-looking machines". Steve

Jobs, Apple's founder, says that the most important question in marketing products (which used to come in any shade of beige you liked) is now what is your favourite colour".

Of course, marketing effectively to women involves much more than selling the computer in green or red. But IT firms now have to realise that to sell their products they need to work a little bit harder.

AS the International Olympic Committee scandal rolls on. what will happen to the spoil sors is becoming more of an issue. Juan Antonio Samaranch's intransigence about sucking many of the IOC or resigning himself has angered quite a few of the lead sponsors.

But are they angry enough to drop the sponsorship? Coca-Cola and United Parcel Service look like they might walk away — arguing that there is no benefit from them being associated with a "tarnished brand". John Hancock, the US insurance firm, and Visa International have asked_leading sports sponsorship firms to look at alternatives — the foolball World Cup being one of

the most obvious beneficiaries. However, these high moral stances have been tempered by one nagging question: will up a high-profile sponsorship at a bargain price? How can morals win when pitted against commerce?

jason_nisse@the-times.co.uk

Protessionnels.

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France Telecom

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French adverts are in tune with attracting female customers

on small print...

...and legal minutiae.

Rowe & Maw

LAWYERS FOR BUSINESS 20 Black Friars Lane, London EC4V 6HD Telephone: 0171 248 4282

Flight of fancy

IF ALL goes well, it will be 15 years between the day that someone peered out over some land west of London and said "hey, why don't we put the thing there?" and the first plane taking off from Terminal Five. A decade and a half. How long do you think it would have taken the French?

Anyway, I hear well-connected voices within BAA who believe that the whole project is past its sell-by date. They say the terminal ceased to make economic sense four years ago,



"Have you noticed that it's always the Germans who sell their stake first

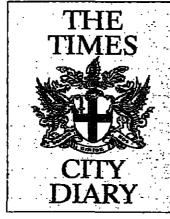
which, coincidentally enough, is when the public inquiry that ends this week first began.

The £1.8 billion construction cost will have to be borrowed, and the worry is that the cost, as such building work tends to, will shoot through the roof and the project will never li-

nance itself. Most such big capital projects have in the past been built with help from the Government; that is, you and me. The only possible comparison is with Eurotunnel, which is not a parallel BAA is keen to explore.

Des Wilson at the company insists that BAA intends to finish the terminal in 2006, and that the numbers add up. But he admits that BAA is reserving a fall-back position if they don't. "What is true is that we may have to take to the regulator and to the airlines about some sort of Terminal Five surcharge." And what if the regulator refuses?

WILLIAM HAGUE is not inclined to be magnanimous to fallen enemies. Presenting an award at the London Press Club to The Guardian for the story that brought down Peter Mandelson, the Tory leader commented: After the Labour Party spend years passing the cheque around from Robert Maxwell, he was the one left holding it when the music stopped."



Bargain bin

RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Group insists a sale of its deeply unloved Our Price chain will take place despite the departure of Prudential's venture capital arm after a row over price. The best bet seems to be a sale to the management, backed by the usual venture capital suspects.

This is despite industry observers who say the stores are too small and have too limited a range of stock. So I wonder if potential buyers have got as far as page 257 in Branson's autobiography, Losing My Virginity. He talks about the move to set up megastores with a much wider range, a business that Virgin, strange-

ly, is retaining when it sells the small-

er Our Price stores.

"We knew that small record shops did not make enough money; they just attracted passers-by who were disappointed by the lack of depth of

Pension surplus THE departure of Red Oskar Lafontaine from the German Finance Min-

istry will be followed automatically by that of his two deputies. But this casual act of Teutonic brutality will not greatly impact on their lifestyles. One, Claus Noé, is 60 and will be shuffled into early retirement, on a pension of £52,000 a year. The other, Heiner Flassbeck, 48, gets 75 per cent of his salary, or just short of £60,000, for the next five years and a pension

of £36,000 thereafter. I am told this is the normal way of doing things in Germany and has attracted little attention there.

ANDERSEN CONSULTING, read-

ers may recall, has this marvellous concierge service for its staff. Some flunky will look after your dog or pick up your mum from the airport while you are working 27 hours a day. I hear of the most obscure request yet. Andersen had some people working in Helsinki in late January who wanted to celebrate Burns Night. The Finns not regarding a sheep's stomach stuffed with who knows what as fit for human consumption, the

consultants contacted the London of-

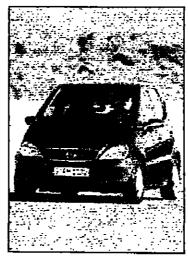
fice, and a half dozen haggises were

Driven away JEROME BELL, a currency broker

at Cantor Fitzgerald, will today receive the keys to a new Mercedes Benz A-Class, which he won in a raffle for the charity Children in Crisis. They are being handed over at Cantor's offices by the Duchess of York. Now, don't be unkind. Will he be driv-

ing it to work? No, his wife Rosemary has collared it. So you win an expensive Merc and promptly hand it over to your wife? "Basically, yes."

MARTIN WALLER city.diary@the-times.co.uk

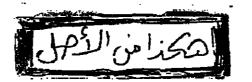


Raffle prize for one lucky City trader — or his wife

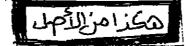


flown out forthwith.

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Spring's dealers put West End gloss on objets d'art

Joseph Connolly previews the fair that sets a high note for the rest of the season

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which begins tomorrow at the Duke of York's Headquarters off the Kings Road, West Lon-don. is for me one of the first indica-

tions that spring is finally here.
Possibly it is the way that the March sunshine illuminates those spectacular marquees. Maybe it is the topiary-strewn approach, or the dealers' lavishness with daffodils, and their penchant for setting off lovingly waxed furniture with generous bowls of oranges and lemons. Either way, visitors always ap-proach the British Antique Dealers' As-sociation bash with enthusiasm.

The layout of the fair, spacious but comprehensible, plays a part, but it is the quality and diversity of the pieces

on show that count.

About 90 dealers from all over the country exhibit examples of their best stock, representing every field of collect-ing — furniture (always a strong showing, and this year particularly so), fine art, ceramics, glass, prints, jewellery, textiles, clocks and silver. Prices range from about £50 to dizzy heights.

At the more elevated level, Norman Adams is showing — among the cus-tomary excellent selection of English 18th-century furniture — a fine burt maple and rosewood bureau bookcase. exceptional for several reasons. The

he annual Bada antiques fair, shell and carries highly unusual pewter John Speed's ever-popular county stringing, but most importantly it bears the label of the noted cabinetmaker tacular is a set of 12 beautifully coloured John Coxed. The bookcase was made around 1710 and is offered at somewhere between £150,000 and £200,000. More affordably, Adams also has a charming mahogany two-tier dumb waiter (c. 1790), each swivelling tier hav-

ing two pull-down flaps £10,000. John Bly is bringing some similarly gorgeous things — notably a half-cir-cle commode table by John Linnell (c.1785) made of ma-hogany and inlaid with exot-£135,000. Also desirable is a rare Queen Anne bureau — an oak carcass covered in

tortoiseshell lacquer and chi-noiserie priced £68,000 from Alistair Sampson. He also has a very strong showing of English pottery this year — Delft, creamware, Staffordshire, Saltglaze

£200 to several thousands. And for the walls, how about some rare maps and prints from The O'Shea Gallery? Particularly pleasing is a pair of Hogarth engravings (£850) depicting a seduction scene - before and after. There will also be a good selection of

oriental rice paper paintings depicting various exotic flowers. These are mid-19th century Cantonese and are of-fered at £5,000 for the set.

There is, as ever, a plethora of won-

derful, smaller decorative items - an unusually large and magnificent richly

gilded pot-pourri was the first to catch my eye. Made by Mason's around 1815, it is 18 inches wide, 10 inches high, and lovely in every way — £1,350 from Janice Pauli, who is also bringing a good collection of Ironstone dated between 1800 and 1850, from about £60 to £8,000.

As to watches and jewellery, the visitor is somewhat spoilt for choice. Particularly impressive is an extraordinary dia-mond and sapphire Art Nouveau

brooch by Boucheron (1900) in the form of a cicada — a rare piece from Sandra Cronan at £75,000. More affordable is a very ornate gold and enamel fob watch by Patek Philippe (c.1890) — the protective outer repoussé case opens to reveal an intricate enamelled theme decting two cherubs set with diamonds; £8,500 from Somio Antiques, which is

also bringing a great collection of wrist-watches by makers such as Rolex and Cartier from the Twenties to the Sixties at prices from £2,500 upwards.

Another delight is the fair's annual at-tendant exhibition. This year it focuses on the finest 100 years of decorative papier maché from 1772 to 1872. This versatile material became enormously fashionable and was applied to just about every domestic item you can

-bout 40 prime items are on ex-hibition, and around ten dealfor sale: J Collins of Bideford has an ink stand (c.1860) at £850, David Gibbins Antiques is offering a rare and extraordinary balloon clock, around 1810, at £16,500, and Rupert Gentle An-tiques has, for £2,500, a very decorative collection of Spill vases covered in oriental birds and flowers. Not to be missed to Bada, where more can be learnt about the history of dining habits, samplers, wine antiques, ceramics and papier maché.

● The Bada Antiques and Fine Arts Fair is at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road. London, SW3 from March 17 to 23. En-try, £10 single, £15 double to include a re-enand the Bada Yearbook Call

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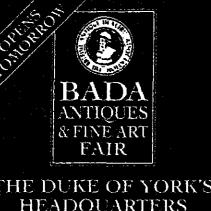
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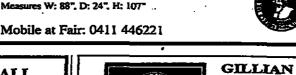
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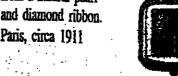
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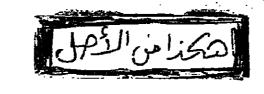
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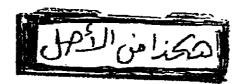
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An urgent need has arisen for a solicitor with at least 5 years' post qualification experience gained with a major regional or London firm or in-house. The role involves dealing with a diverse range of residential. commercial and general property transactions. Bermuda operates within a totally unregistered conveyancing system and it is essential that you have excellent drafting skills, including the ability to draft deeds and documents of a novel nature. You will need substantial experience of unregistered conveyancing, the ability to adapt to the requirements of a foreign jurisdiction and a professional approach. With an outgoing personality, you will be highly organised, with a demonstrable ability to operate on your own initiative and you should be capable of dealing with an established caseload with the minimum of supervision.

The closing date for both these positions is Wednesday 7th April. 1st round interviews will be held in London on Thursday 15th April 1999. For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Sean Mulherin or Laurence Simons personally at Laurence Simons International Third party applications received by the firm will be forwarded to us.



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London – overseas – industry

The right advice

You wouldn't ask a plumber how to bake a soufflé, or a cordon bleu chef how to change a washer. Equally, you should think twice before asking a partner in a law firm for advice on career moves. However brilliant they may be in their field, recruitment is not their

This thought is promoted by the story of a newly qualified solicitor who was not kept on at his firm. "Why not take a year off and travel," suggested the friendly head of roperty. "When you get back there might be more vacancies around." This idea appealed to him, and off he went.

Disaster. When he returned he found himself competing against newly qualified solicitors with fresh experience and without a gap year to explain away to prospective employers. He will find a lob even tually, but at a lower level than he'd have found immediately on

Fortunately, he enjoyed his year off. But he realises now that it might have been more sensible to take advice from someone with more knowledge of the Job-market

directory is available at £45 from

and the second control of the second control

<u>Industry</u>

struction litigation N. Home Counties National construction company seeks litigator minimum 5 years' relevant experience to handle a mixed caselos You will be joining an existing team of four lawyers based in a delightful rural location. Legal/company secretarial

Lawyer c. 18 mths' poe preferably incl expce of Stock Exchange work for broad role as co sec assistant handling commercial, licensing, insurance and secretarial matters.

Lawyer min 5 yrs' poe, including residential development expce, to join existing team and handle acquisitions, site set-up and development and supervision of junior staff.

<u>London & Overseas</u>

Commercial property prof support City
Top ten City firm seeks property lawyer with around 10 years' poe to lead team of three other property PSL's. External writing, training, know how and legal updates.

Big 5 accountancy law firm offers 2-5 year qual solicitor with private equity expce (an area of true synergy with the accountaris) high quality work and excellent prospects.

Stand alone dept of med-sized practice seeks 24 yr qual soir for pure employment caseload incl tribunal work. Terrific ood to join dept with exc reputation and high qual clientale.

Saville House, 23 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HL Tel: 0171 606 8844 Fax: 0171 600 1793 e-mail: info@chambersrecruitment.co.uk

Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis: Deborah Kirkman, Stuart Morton Charity lawyer Central London Well-known UK charity seeks solr/barr min 5 yrs' experience

to work on a broad range of contractual, charity, IP, promotional, insurance and risk management issues. Regulatory/disciplinary Lawyer minimum 2 years' pge to handle professional

Lititation background useful and you should have an interest

Major UK property company seeks hands on property langer to handle mixed caseloed of L&T, acquisitions and disposals

and general property matters within existing team.

David Woolfson, Paul Thomas, Emma Ridley

Partnership Positions
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for 25 years and we are regularly placing several Solicitors with 1-5 years' page for London office of major US firm for cutting edge-IT work for high profile American and European technology clientele. £55-75K. partners each month.

Acquisition finance partner City Famously profitable medium-sized firm, ahead of its peers in creating a work-producing European network, seeks

Media/entertainment partner High profile entertainment practice seeks solt for partnership

in expanding Film/TV dept which has built its name acting for Hollywood studios & some of the best British producers. Substantial firm seeks an IP/IT specialist c. 25 years' poe to augment the existing team. Both contentious and non-

contentious experience required.

CAREER MOVES

US FIRMS

Banking - Leading New York firm with an unparalleled

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There are great prospects and the work is of the highest quality.

Projects - Rare opportunity to work on a global scale on some

of the most high profile international projects. International

travel and top \$US races in a genuinely innovative and

BANKS Commercial Banking - City - European bank has a new

role for a c.5 year qualified lawyer. This is a key role within the

legal team. Good quality work and plenty of autonomy and

Commercial Banking - City - European bank seeks

a 2-4 year qualified lawyer from a recognised City firm. Broad range of work, responsibility and autonomy. Well run

IN-HOUSE - PROPERTY

Property - Brackmell - This is more than a commercial

property job. Legal adviser sought, 2-4 years pge, to work

closely with the Legal Director but often autonomously on

Property - Northants - Well known house builder has new

opening for c.5 year qualified lawyer. Wide range of matters

PUBLIC, PRODUCTS AND EMPLOYERS

LIABILITY

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A new position exists for a solicitor with at least 2 years PQE in personal injury litigation. You will have your own caseload and provide support to this bety learn in our City Office. Quote job ref. C002

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Two Solicitors with 2 years PQE or an experienced legal executive to join an existing team. Quote job ref: MOO2

2+years

c_£65,000 + Bens

c_£50,000 + Bonus

£Market Rate + Car

£Market Rate + Bens

commercial environment.

contact with the business.

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Commercial Litigation - Friendly, Top 10 practice seeks a confident senior assistant to handle a broad-ranging role encompassing training, education and information. Three 3+ years

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IP Litigation - Premier IP practice in London firm, with strong and very high profile media client base, seeks a contentious specialist for busy team to handle an interesting mix of hard and 2-5 years

TT - Market leader in London seeks mid-ranking assistant who wants a truly international slant to their work. Top of the range clients and opportunities to travel combine to offer a genuinely exciting role.

CORPORATE

international - Top 10 firm seeks first-rate assistants to undertake a wide range of cross border corporate finance work. Clients include household media and sporting names and there is every chance to travel.

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Contact Alison Port, Paul Roxburgh (Practice) or Caroline Nussey, Nick Hedley (In-house) on 0171 415 2828 or write to Taylor Root, 179 Queen Victoria Street, London ECAV 4JA. Email: carolinenussey@taylor-root.co.uk

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Two new posts for Legal Executives or Paralegals experienced in insurance itgation. Your responsibilities will be many and varied making for an interesting challenge. Quote job ref: C003-M001

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For further information and to obtain a job description, person specification and application form please contact our Practice Manager Sheila O'Connor

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E-Mail: sheilaoconnor@DaviesLavery.co.nk

Progress, with vision

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On 1st April 1999 Medway Council will be celebrating its first anniversary as a Unitary Authority comprising the former areas of Rochester upon Medway City and Gillingham Borough Councils. We are looking to strengthen our Legal Services section by the appoint

an enthusiastic Solicitor or Barrister to our busy Social Services and Education Team. The team handles a particularly broad and exciting range of legal work including Employment Law marters. We are committed to providing a quality cor legal service to the Social Services and Education Directorates and would seek to appoint at either Senior or Assistant Solicitor level depending upon experience.

As a member of this team you will advise the Council and its Officers and also

act as the Council's advocate in Court and at Tribunals. You will need excellent analytical and presentational skills, as well as the common sense necessary to give mps, clear and practical advice.

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If you would like to discuss these opportunities please telephone Jacquie Miller, Principal Solicitor, on 01634 732863.

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CARDIFF LAW SCHOOL Permanent and Fixed-Term Lecturers in Law

A number of posts are available in the Cardiff Law School for Lecturers in Law. Some posts are available on a permanent basis, and some on fixed-terms of three years, depending on academic experience to date.

You must be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to research and publication. These posts are not restricted to any particular field of expertise, but lecturers are expected to make an enthusiastic contribution to core areas of the curriculum. We expect these appointments to take effect no later than 1 September 1999. (Post Ref. 99/85). Salary: £16655 - £29048 per annum.

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We have three posts available which are fixed-term for three years and are based in the Centre for Professional Legal Studies which is part of the Cardiff Law School.

We are seeling to recruit a solicitor with expertise in litigation, preferably with commercial experience, to join the team teaching the litigation and advocacy element of the Legal Practice Course. We are also seeking two barristers, one with expertise in criminal work, the other in civil work, preferably with chancery/company experience, to join the team teaching the Bar Vocational Course. We expect these appoints take effect no later than 1 August 1999. (Post Ref. 99/86).

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You will have at least 8 years' post-qualified experience, some of which will ideally have been gained within the hi-tech or financial services industry. Experience of managing professional staff is essential and Company Secretarial experience would be preferred.

This opening will provide a steep, but rewarding, learning curve in a fast-paced, young business. You will join an innovative company at the forefront of technological change which values its people as its greatest asset.

To apply please send your CV (together with salary details) to our retained consultants Salty Horrox or Elizabeth Williams at ZMB Industry, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL. Confidential fax 0171 523 3823. E-mail: sally.horrox@zaraigroup.com Alternatively call them on 0171 523 1250 (evenings/weekends 0181 987 0132). This assignment is being handled exclusively by ZMB industry and all direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them. The closing date is 5th April 1999.



PROPERTY COUNSEL

First In-House Appointment

London

3 - 6 Years Experience

Our client is one of the leading UK property companies and is part of a major US multi-national. Employing in excess of 2,600 people across the UK our client has been at the forefront of the industry for over 60 years.

The Role

Based in the London Head Office, you will be responsible for establishing the legal function for this market leader. With primary responsibility for handling commercial transactions, your workload will include day to day attendance on all legal aspects of property matters and multi-million pound tenders, dealing with property litigation issues and providing general company/commercial legal advice to the management and Board. This will involve advising on employment, pensions and company secretarial issues. As in-house counsel, you will also be expected to assist the parent company with ad-hoc European projects.

The Lawyer

This challenging and varied post will suit a high calibre lawyer with between 3 and 6 years post qualification experience, gained from a leading law firm. With a thorough understanding of property law, you must be a self-starter with a strong personality. You will be highly committed with a professional and commercial approach. This is a hands on role and you will need the confidence and interpersonal skills to advise and influence at senior levels within the company.

If you are interested in applying for this position or would like any further information, please contact Rachael North who is handling this assignment on an exclusive basis.



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For this role, you will need to be a Law graduate with a minimum of 2 years' work experience, either in a commercial or legal environment, with experience of writing comprehensive reports and also producing short analytical summaries. Knowledge of the British legal system (including criminal law and procedures) and an understanding of ethical issues are essential. Experience of voluntary work, although not essential, would be desirable.

You will need to be able to prioritise your workload and be able to show the ability to communicate effectively with people at all levels, both orally and in writing.

For an application form and an information pack, please send an A4 sized stamped addressed envelope to the Personnel Department British Red Cross, 9 Grosver Crescent, LONDON SWIX 7EJ quoting reference FE/055. Closing date for completed applications: 30 March 1999.



British Red Cross Caring for people in crisis

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43. THE RESERVE

EEN'S COUNSEL

Is the legal profession riddled with racism?

Ethnic minority figures reveal the scale of the problem, says Frances Gibb

he Lawrence inquiry has thrust racism to the top of the political agenda. It has forced the whole criminal justice system into self-scrutiny. On Saturday it will be the legal profession's turn to engage in the debate when the Minority Lawyers Conference considers whether "institutional racism" exists in the profession and justice system.

Many lawyers believe that the figures say it all. Ethnic minority lawyers make up 8.5 per cent of the private practice Bar and 5 per cent of practising solicitors. But the mix is changing and large numbers are joining the profession: in 1988, they made up 20 per cent of the 7,900 students enrolling with the Law Society and 16 per cent of trainees registering with law firms (double the proportion of ethnic minorities in the population). They also account for 16 per cent of barristers starting pupillage and

12 per cent gaining tenancies. But higher up, minorities are poorly represented. There are no black High Court judges and only four (of 562) circuit judges. Numbers are rising, slowly, in the junior ranks: 3.4 per cent of assistant recorders, 3 per cent of full and parttime tribunal chairmen.

This is partly because there is still only a small pool of eligible candidates. But as Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, points out, an "unwelcome trend has emerged". The proportion of applicants chosen to be Oueen's Counsel from the ethnic minorities has dropped year on year: of 420 cent) were non-white. By 1997, the figure had dropped to 2.4 per cent, although last year

it rose again, to 3.5 per cent. There is recognition of the problem: the conference is a mainstream event, organised by the Lord Chancellor's Department, the Bar and Law Society, in consultation with the main ethnic lawyer groups. Lord Irvine, who will give the keynote speech, has urged ethnic minorities to go for judicial posts: "Don't be shy, apply".

What, then, do they think? Maria Fernandes, 39, an immigration solicitor and Law Society ethnic minorities council member, says: "Ethnic minority solicitors will be adversely affected by the Government's reforms. Under legal aid contracts, small firms will be heavily reduced and this will hit ethnic minority lawyers, who are concentrated in such firms.

"Such lawyers face problems from the start; they go to schools and universities not considered as good as others.

A LEADING insurance

company claimed a break-

through this week with a

new policy to back condi-

tional fee legal actions

with no upfront costs. Roy-

al & SunAlliance claims

that its scheme will make

"no win, no fee" a reality

couped only from winners.

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for thousands of people wanting to use

the courts. The premiums to protect legal costs, agreed in advance, will be re-

The new policy will pick up all the costs

awarded against the litigant, plus most of his or her solicitor's costs and expenses.

Peter Smith of the insurers says: "At

present, people can insure against judg-

ments going against them, but premiums

☐ An American judge is to receive four

Viagra pills a month from his health in-

surer after threatening to sue it for not

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

FEES TO:

COURTS

COUNSEL

CLERKS

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NOTARIES

WITNESSES

must be paid before the case starts."





"There is institutional racism in the profession," says Anuja Dhir Lancoln Crawford adds: "I shif hind problem

contracts and a 'ripple effect' sets in. There is no doubt that we have institutional racism at the Law Society and in law firms. We have to tackle it by looking at procedures, training contracts and so on. People are still worried about what cli-

When at a City law firm, she was taken by a senior partner to be introduced to a client. "He wanted to reassure the client," she recalls. "There is a fear there, but it is not as obvious as pointing to something and saying that was racism, sexism, or maybe they did not like your face. Many people equate equal opportunities with tackling racism. The pro-fession likes to think the problem does not exist."

ents will think."

Anuja Dhir, 31, a barrister at 5 Paper Buildings, says: "There is institutional racism throughout the legal profession and in the way justice is administered. Discrimination occurs in three ways: first, ethnic minority lawyers are not what people perceive to be the the right sex, for a barrister, and that perception is held by other lawyers, judges and lay clients. Secondly, they are perceived not to have been to the 'right' schools or universities. Thirdly, they don't have the

same social skills to integrate. "I was lucky, but others get forced into ghetto chambers and don't get the opportunities and can never recover from that. People can't apply for posts if they haven't had the right experience."

Raju Bhatt, 42, a solicitor with his own four-partner firm, Bhatt Murphy, says: "The criminal justice system is permeated with racism at every level and black people are treated differently - from the way complaints are handled to sentences. Black lawyers all have experiences. I have been treated at court as if I am the consumer of the system, rather than the supplier. I came into law late and was lucky to get a training contract at Birnbergs, where I was given space to develop my prac-

supplying him with the po-

tency drug, according to

magazine. Initially, the health insurer of Judge David Scholl, a Philadel-

phia bankruptcy judge who says he is partially

impotent, refused to sup-

ply him with the drug, but relented when

he filed a grievance procedure and threat-

☐ The first privately run coffee shop for

Salford County Court judges has been packing them in. Even judges from other

courts go there to sample their celebrity

sandwiches. Azzam and Zeagham Ahmad name them after customers of their

nearby Manchester showbiz district

shop, Deansgate Sandwiches. Clients in-

clude Coronation Street's Audrey Rob-

erts, who pops in for a Sue Nicholis Expe-

rience, the Halle Orchestra conductor

ened to take it to court.

FOR:

CERTIORARI

MANDAMUS

SUBPOENAS

PER DIEMS

HABEAS CORPUS

NOLLE PROSEQUIS

The American Lawyer

police, prisons, deaths in custody, prisoners' rights). That is so important. But my experience is very untypical. Many black lawyers have to battle to get those footholds."

Lincoln Crawford, 50, a barrister and chairman of the Bar race relations committee, says: Things are not as bad as was almost impossible to get into chambers. I was pulled in by Sir Peter Rawlinson because he was determined to do something. But he was a lone voice. I still find problems getting work. It's all been

through my contacts. "The reason the Lord Chancellor can't get enough ethnic minorities into judicial posts is because of our failings at the Bar and among solicitors who don't brief black barristers.

"We have to show we are making a difference: we can't go out as lawyers and defend people in this era of change while we at the Bar are hiding behind our equal opportunities and equality codes."

Kent Nagano, who enjoys a Nagano Ex-

press, and the stage star Shane Ritchie

All but two of the 42 new Chief Crown

Prosecutors, whose appointments were

announced last week, come from within the Crown Prosecution Service, despite

the fact that more than a quarter of the

209 applicants were external. Ironically,

the posts were created as part of a drive to

decentralise the service and many com-

mentators saw the move as a chance to in-

☐ Euro lawyers will flock to the first annual Lord Slynn of Hadley European Law Lecture — by Gil Carlos Rodriguez Iglesias, the President of the European

Court of Justice, on Monday. The sub-

ject? Drinks in Luxembourg, alcoholic

beverages and European case law -

oiled by a reception. Details: Lisa Fretton, 0171-391 1514.

Steuart & Francis

etc.

who has his own Lucky Butty.

ject new blood into the service.

when I started in 1976, when it

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The envy of many larger fines with its exceptionally high quality client base, this niche 'modern technology' practice in the City is seeking a young and focused property partner to play a photal role in the future growth of the Property Department. With a part following as evidence of client development striks you will be offered a very generous renumeration package and excellent prospects of equity.

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£120,000 - £200,000

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what matters most is the ability to fit with a truly international
partnership with successful offices in every corner of the globe
and enjoying a very close knit cutture in the London office. The
immediate and long term prospects are unparalleled for an
associate or partner with a cosmopolitan outlook and top rate

To £250,000

IO 1201,000 is most firms energy specialists find they have to light the way, providing all the power to create a top rate reputation and practice. In this forward thinking partnership the hard graft has already been done and the energy group is actonowicelged as one of the leaders in the field. The team's project now is to ensure they move to the very top of the league and stay there, if you are an energy partner or associate with an established or growing name you will be welcomed to a department which buzzes with enthusiason.

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approach with an ability to act quickly and decisively is essential. You will be joining a very committed enthusiastic and friendly Legal & Regulatory team which provides a

A robust, flexible and common sense

supportive working environment. The team works pro-actively with Celinet's senior management and is closely involved in all areas of the

a track record of work at appropriate levels and an aptitude for teamwork in both a legal and business context. At least 3 years' relevant PQE is required. A highly competitive salary and benefits package is on offer to

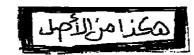
You must be able to demonstrate



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To apply, please write with your full CV and covering letter to Lorraine Robinson, PP1FBC, Bridge Court, The Close, Newpastle upon Type NE1 3BA, to arrive by 30th March 1999. Please quote reference so



Discovering just who runs the country t is time that we knew more about our that we now see around us. Judges more and more take to themselves jurisdiction over mor-

top judges: who they are, what their inter-Lests are and how they are appointed. Why? Because over the years judges have taken more and more powers to themselves. This, when linked to the new constitutional role that legislation is giving them, radically alters the balance of power. To say this is not to criticise the integrity of any top judge, simply to emphasise that they are becoming over-mighty subjects: too powerful and selected in secret by an unaccountable process.

We need greater openness about the way our judges are appointed for four reasons, and there are four ways of ensuring that we know more about these people (mostly men). First, because of the way in which an unchecked judiciary has been pushing out the

boundaries of its powers Only 20 years ago, judicial review of government decisions was a rarity. Even as an old lag of the government process, case hardened in the corridors of Whitehail, I do not think that the judicial review of government decisions is bad. But its increasing use has radical-ly altered the balance of powers in our constitutional arrangements and the law lords straight into the political proc-

ess as a result. Secondly, when the substantive provisions of the Europe-an Rights Act come into force, by developing the common law compatibly with the rights contained in

the European Convention on Human Rights, we shall be facing a legal revolution. For the first time, our rights as subjects will be spelt out, leading to an ever-greater burst of judicial activism

The Government's vague mystery tour approach to constitutional change has left a vacuum that will mean judges are drawn into arbitrating between Westminster, the Scottish parliament and the Welsh assembly. This may not be the Government's intention, but unless it comes up with an alternative mechanism, the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords will become a constitutional court.

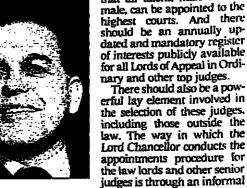
When asked whether he has proposals to develop a constitutional court, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, denied this. But he seems blind to the fact that it is about to evolve in front of our eyes. Baroness Jay of Paddington says that the Government is not going to set up a permanent royal commission or any similar body to monitor constitutional change in the UK. If so, the higher judiciary is going to be asked to garner more and

more constitutional power to itself.

Thirdly, it is vital that we have greater openness because of the greater judicial activism

over-mighty subjects. The best way to start on this process is to ensure that our judges are closely scrutinised. Posts at the highest level need to be advertised to show that all talent, male and fe-

highest courts. And there should be an annually updated and mandatory register of interests publicly available for all Lords of Appeal in Ordinary and other top judges.





There should also be a powerful lay element involved in the selection of these judges. including those outside the law. The way in which the Lord Chancellor conducts the appointments procedure for the law lords and other senior judges is through an informal and secret consultation proc-

ess with other senior judges exactly like the old magic circle approach by which Conservative Party leaders were selected until the 1960s.

Lastly, so important is a law lord's role becoming that there should be public hearings before anyone is appointed a law lord. Most in the law seem to be in a state of absolute denial that the higher judiciary has become more political. Yet as things stand, the role of these judges in promoting and monitoring constitutional change will be unfettered.

al matters, in line with how they, not Parlia-

ment, see international law developing. In the past, under common law, judges always had

the ability to circumvent parliamentary influ-

ence, but this has rarely been a matter of seri-

ous public concern, let alone constitutional im-

plication. Why? Because of the usual conserv-

ative and personally cautious approach of the law lords, who have ensured that the tide of

We urgently need to build in more checks

and balances, to guarantee that no one group

of people, in this case our judges, become

change has flowed slowly.

There should be a select committee of both Houses of Parliament to ensure that those recommended for appointment are fit for the role, and that our courts contain a balance. But on reflection, perhaps this idea is not so radical, after all, for surely our top judiciary - who seemed so very keen to have the European Convention on Human Rights incorporated into our law — could not resist the idea that they, too, are selected by the same open

process as their brother judges in Strasbourg. It is the very judicial activism of our top judges that has brought their role so sharply into focus. Fairness and constitutional balance demand that they should be as closely exarnined as those who appear before them. • Lord Patten is a former Home Office Minister.

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Curbing power at the DTI

Kevin Maxwell's contempt victory has implications for future inquiries, say Keith Oliver and David Corker

have been

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inquiries'

he unprecedented defeat suffered by the Depart-ment of Trade and Industry (DTI) in its attempt to cite Kevin Maxwell for contempt of court - arising from his reasoned refusal to co-operate with a DTI inquiry - may be the death knell of such inquiries under the Companies Act 1985.

WYER

NDON

In his judgment delivered last week, Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chan-cellor and head of the Chancery Division, said that Maxwell's fears about unfair treatment at the hands of DTI inspectors were justi-fied. He had been entitled to refuse to answer their questions and to refuse to provide a confidentiality undertaking.

The powers of DTI inspectors conducting Section 432 or 442 Companies Act inquires can be fairly

described as draconian. They have, for example, the powers of computsory questioning and seizire of documents, and their published reports lead to career blight for those criti-Furthermore, these reports can also be a prelude to criminal prosecution.

Inspectors, encouraged by the DTI, have Inspectors, become accustomed to setting the rules for the conduct of inquiries as they see fit. At the least,

Maxwell's case underlines the need for DII inspectors to give greater recognition to standards of fairness and reasonableness rather than slavishly adhering to past custom and practice.

The inspectors were appointed to investigate the events surrounding the flotation, in April 1991, of Mirror Group Newspapers. Hav-ing failed to secure Maxwell's compliance with their regime of questioning and confidentiality, the in-spectors in late 1998 cited him for contempt. Anticipating the implica-tions for DTI inquiries were the inspectors' application to fail, the DTI intervened and was separately represented. The inspectors' argument was that Maxwell had unreasonably refused to co-operate pursuant to his statutory obligations under the Companies Act and that the inspectors could be trusted

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to be fair masters of their own procedure. It was said that the imposition of confidentiality on witnesses was necessary to ensure the effective operation of DTI inquiries.

Maxwell argued that the inspec tors had not gone far enough in seeking to protect him from unfairness. For example, they had not agreed to refrain from asking him questions regarding matters about which he had already been questioned, either in his criminal trial or beforehand during the various insolvency interrogations. Maxwell said that the attempt to impose confidentiality was one-sided in favour of the inspectors; they were seeking to prevent him from conferring with others in order to defend him-self properly while they enjoyed no restriction in the use they made of information given to them.

In his, at times, excoriating judgment of the 'Inspectors inspectors and the DTI, the Vice-Chancellor reserved his/most trenchant comments for the inspectors' attempt to impose any such confidentiality. He held that they had no right to insist on any such undertaking. if they wish to preserve and protect the confidentiality of the information and documents they need do no more than make sure that every person to whom the information is communicat-

> tial character. The undertaking that the inspectors sought to extract from Maxwell was "... in my opinion a good deal further than was either reasonable or necessary". The Vice-Chancellor concluded:

.. is on notice of their confiden-

"Mr Maxwell was, in my judg-ment, entitled to regard these conditions as constituting an unjustified impediment hindering him in attempting to prepare himself to deal with the inspectors' questions."
What is undeniable is that indi-

viduals who are compelled to appear before DTI inspectors whether those appointed under the Companies Act or the Financial Services Act - should no longer regard a summons to the presence as an appearance before a Star Chamber with an entirely uneven playing field. Inspectors are no longer auto-



The DTI failed to cite Kevin Maxwell for contempt after he had refused to co-operate with its inquiry

matically entitled to require blanket undertakings of confidentiality from witnesses, particularly if they are unrepresented and where there

have been previous proceedings. Inspectors may need to identify to witnesses their evidence given to other tribunals, regulators, prosecuting authorities or office-holders to avoid the oppression of duplicated questioning. Individuals may be entitled to receive advance notice of questions so that they can prepare in advance and not be subjected to interrogation where the inspectors,

with their substantial resources, hold all the aces.

The implications of the case are not limited to Maxwell's victory. One issue surely under consideration by Stephen Byers and his department is whether inspections under Part XIV of the Companies Act 1985 can continue in their present form. Sir Richard Scott's decision, coupled with the implementation of the Human Rights Act, is likely to affect significantly the State's use of compulsive inquisitorial powers. It is not only the DTI

that should take note of the judge's decision. The Financial Services Authority, with its proposed draconian powers as contemplated in the Financial Services and Markets Bill. may find that its powers and procedures will similarly face judicial scrutiny and perhaps suffer the same fate as has befallen the Secretary of State and his inspectors.

■ Keith Oliver and David Corker are partners with the law firm Peters and Peters, which acted for Kevin Maxwell.

Should young offenders be tagged?

PAULA DAVIES, London magistrate

hild offenders as young as ten could be electronically tagged under last week's proposals from the Youth Justice Board to tackle the rising number of young criminals. Will the Big Brother approach work? A London probation officer said recently of tagging: "People like us have to listen to too many excuses, so maybe heme will be more effective."

As a JP I am concerned that tagging should be used as a community sentence order or part of one. This should involve the Probation Service rather than just putting a prisoner under the control of a machine which can alert a computer that they have absconded. The idea came from America more than 30 years ago and has been selectively piloted in a few areas since 1995. The pilot schemes have been more successful than expected. In Greater Manchester, which dominated the national statistics on tagging, the completion rate of curfew orders — 80 per cent — confounded expectations. At first magistrates were sceptical and wary. Yet experience from the pilot schemes won them over. Why? Because tagging in those schemes, unlike the present home detention curfews, was imposed as part of a community service order and usually directly involved the Probation Service. In Greater Manchester magistrates used the orders as direct alter-

natives to custody in five out of ten cases. Magistrates elsewhere would welcome the chance to do the same, but the orders are not yet in force nationally. The jury is still out on whether such schemes will reduce offending rather than merely empty the prisons. Reconviction rates post-prison are higher than those after community service, and if such orders can include reparation orders, the outcome could be even better. The scheme must be worth a try nationally; and will, I hope, come into force this year.

JULIAN BROADHEAD, probation officer

n January the first prisoners were released under electronic tagging in the Government's latest attempt to cut prison numbers.

Not all prisoners qualify for the new home detention curfew —
a period of between 14 days and two months at the end of a sentence. They must be aged at least 18 and serving between three months and four years. Those required to register under the Sex Offenders Act 1997 or Category A prisoners are ineligible. The official estimate is that 35,000 prisoners are expected to be released in one year. Curfews are between nine and 13 hours, from 7pm to 7am. The offender must stay at home.

How does the monitoring work? On release, a small identification device is attached to one ankle and a monitoring unit is installed in the prisoner's home. The unit communicates with a central computer system and if the tag is interfered with or if the person wearing it strays beyond a set range (usually only within the home) the device informs the contractor and the person is liable for recall to prison.

The legislation, Sections 99 and 100 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, has had widespread support. Confidence is high among politicians, prison staff and the contracting companies. Premier, Securicor and GSSC. There were hitches in the pilot schemes. Bed-springs were blamed for setting off tags after police visited homes in the early hours to find their person not missing but sleeping soundly: one man removed his tag before committing a murder and many others simply disappeared.

The scheme's success will depend on how prisoners are selected. The projected figure of 4,000 prisoners tagged at any one time seems high. And even if achieved, the prison population will be higher than when the Government took office.

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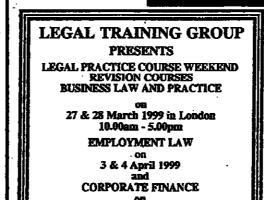


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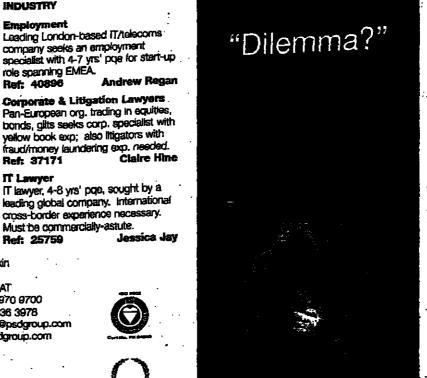
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The course uses established and well-proven training methods of psychotherapy and counselling, adapted for the legal and commercial world, offering participants a new tool in dealing with disputes.

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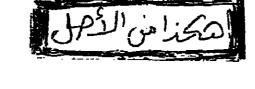
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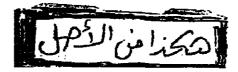
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The victory of Mama Africa

A great singer and a dignified ambassador, Miriam

Makeba is back in London. Nigel Williamson met her

he first thing Miriam Makeba did when she was allowed to return to her native South Africa after more than three decades in exile was to visit her mother's grave. "I sometimes wondered if it would ever happen. I had a wonderful reception from family and friends who I hadn't seen since I left. Some I could no longer recognise. I put my bags down at my brothers' house and then they took me

It is hard not to get a lump in the throat as Makeba tells he story. It was when her mother died in 1960 that she was banned by the apartheid regime. At the time she was on tour in America where, under the patronage of Harry Belaionte, she was fast becoming a star. As she was preparing to fly home for the funeral she was told that her public criticisms of Pretoria's regime had made her persona non grata.

This week she flies to London for her first British concert in five years. She has just finished recording a new alburn, her first since the end of apartheid, aptly titled Makeba — The Legend Lives On. With South Africa preparing for its second free election in June, her Festival Hall appearance promises to be a celebration not only of the rainbow nation but of the triumph of the human spirit in the face of

a family enforcing that spans. Leep it together."
four generations—for, at 67. Although her music was a grandmother. Travelling with her will be her granddaugh-

irst of all catch your

bassist. The most suc-cessful of British dou-

icr Maxwell Davies's pre-emi-

riously awkward instrument

with the most extraordinary

clarity and fluency. Robin Hol-

loway's Concerto for Double

Bass and Small Orchestra, Op

83 - commissioned jointly by

the Scottish Chamber Orches-

tra, the Northern Sinfonia and

Sinfonia 21 - is the latest Mc-

Tier inspiration, and one of

The new work is characteris-Holloway in that it ap-

proaches the problem in a thor-

oughly radical way. Far from

attempting to compensate for

the restricted colour and dy-namic range of the double

bass by means of extravagant orchestration, the composer

has pured the score down to

the extent that the solo instru-

ment seems to be the most re-

sourceful element in it. Far

from compensating for its re-

stricted mobility with complex

harmonics and rhythms, he

has simplified the material to

suit its slow-thinking personal-

the most effective.

ter, Zinzi, who sings in the feel vindicated. They used to brand me a rebel because I band, and her three-year-old son, Lindelini. Makeba's lined face bears

the imprint of the tragedy that has dogged her life and country, but it also shines with the serenity and dignity she has never lost. As the ambassador of black South Africa, she sang to Kennedy on his birthday. addressed the United Nations and sold millions of records of her Xhosa and Zulu songs. But always the cloud of exile

hung over her. With it came huge sacrifice. Three mem-bers of her family were killed in the Sharpeville massacre in 1960. There were several divorces, including from the trumpeter Hugh Masekela and the Black Panther, Stokeley Carmichael: Her daughter Bongi died after her third baby was stillborn. Makeba herself battled with cancer. et there is no trace of bitterness. "It's very

tiring being bitter. The light at the end of the tunnel only grows brighter if we don't waste energy on the past and look to the future." South Africa has been tucky, she says, in having the exam-ple of Mandela. "When I first came home he said to me: 'Miriam, we must never forget, but we must forgive. He had the ability to unite people and it is a miracle that we made the transition without Averwhelming adversity.

She will be accompanied by sides are working very hard to

> cause, she has remained an artist rather than a militant. "I

sang about politics. I never sang about politics. I merely sang the truth. People can now come to South Africa and see for themselves that we were not being ridiculous when we told them what was happen-ing. We had to fight. We had to go into exile. We had no choice."

Since she returned in 1991 at Mandela's request, she has been working on a project to create a home for destitute girls at Balfour, an impoverished township. Two weeks ago on her birthday she finally unveiled the plaque that an-nounced the establishing of the Makeba Home For Girls. If she can raise enough funds to complete the renovation of the old miners' hostel it should open its doors in August!

South Africa has great potential. There is crime, but the root of that is poverty. People still need housing. In years to come there will be relief if we work hard. But we appeal to people in Britain - don't aban-don us. You helped us before but keep on helping, because

the struggle goes on."

There is a humility about her that means she has mixed feelings about the name by which she is known around the world. "Mama Africa is a heavy burden. It is as if I am carrying the whole continent on my back. But I recognise it is an affectionate name and yes, that makes me feel good. " A hall overflowing with that affection on the South Bank this

● Miciam Makeba is at the Festival Hall (0171-960 4242) tomorrow



Miriam Makeba: "They branded me a rebel because I sang about politics. I never sang about politics. I sang the truth"

Perfect ble-bass concertos in recent bass years, John Casken's and Penent among them, have been written specifically for Duninstincts can McTier, who plays a noto-

CONCERTS

ity. The first movement is written entirely on the white notes (to translate it into keyboard terms) with not a sharp or flat to be seen. There is a progression in sophistication in the second and third movements but without ever getting as far as the equivalent of asking the instrument to walk on its hind

So after the first movement - where the soloist carries a heavy melodic line as if on a Mussorgsky promenade, finding harmonic interest in the modes its passes through and rhythmic interest in contradicting the bar lines - there is a

NATIONAL

GALLERY

witty scherzo in which the bass assumes its jazz persona in a stylishly syncopated, eloquently expressive pizzicato

though the soloist has a busy cadenza and a memorably weird passage in harmonics, the orchestra is held in restraint until, right at the end, it is allowed to luxuriate in what is actually a simple A major. It is a brave and remarkably fresh approach to old-fash-ioned diatonic harmony with, most emphanically, nothing of minimalism anywhere near it.

The first three performances of the Double Bass Concerto were given in St Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow by Mc-Tier and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Andrew Litton. In the Edinburgh concert the Dvorak Legends that preceded it sounded oddly out of place in the Queen's Hall acoustic which,

GERALD LARNER

ew works meditate more profoundly on life and death than Mahler's Ninth Symphony, so it was a fitting gesture that Satur-In the last movement too, alday night's performance by principal conductor Christoph

von Dohnányi was dedicated to the late Lord Menuhin. The symphony has become irrevocably associated (thanks not least to Leonard Bernstein) with raw nerve-endings and overt emotionalism. But other approaches can be equally valid. Pierre Boulez has recently brought to bear on Mahler the laser beam of his intellect, delivering cool, lucid accounts that reveal new insights into texture and structure. Dohnányi is a man after Boulez's heart: precise, cerebral, not giv-

en to excess and rigorously eschewing sentimentality. The virtues of such an approach were evident from the ous string lines with striking clarity. Wind and brass meanwhile spotlit the texture with

Cold at heart

Philisemonia/ **Festival Ball**

detail, and the shape of the movement emerged with admirable intelligibility.

A nagging feeling that it was all a shade calculated began to take root, however - a sense that was not dissipated by Dohnanyi's handling of the second-movement Ländler. "Somewhat clumsy and very coarse" it may be marked by the composer, but this peasant dance should still have a spring of some kind in its step. The satirical nature of the Rondo-Burleske was rather more

plosively immediate an impact as it should.

that sublime valediction to life, where, alas, Dohnanyi's coolness seemed more than ever

strings once again enhanced the richly textured fabric of the score, and the members of the

Philharmonia surpassed themselves in maintaining their concentration over the long span. However, the emotional ba-

rometer obstinately refused to register, and if this movement fails to tug at the heartstrings, there is something seriously wrong. A stoic confrontation with mortality is one thing. but we should be in no doubt that the final pages of this awe-inspiring score are a matter of life and death.

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical

CDs presented with BBC Radio 3

HANDEL'S WATER MUSIC

HANDEL composed his "Celebrated Water Musick" in 1717 for the season's grandest bash - an evening river party given by George I. It had been a pretty bad year for the monarchy and a high-profile floating fiesta was just what the spin-doctors ordered. The King and his entourage boarded open barg-es as did 50 liveried musicians, who played Mr Handel's new work all the way up the Thames from Whitehall to

Chelsea and back. The most successful per formances achieve a good "outdoor sound, particularly in the brass and woodwind. The brazen horns of the King's Consort hit the mark. The Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra opts for small forces - fine in gentler movements but elsewhere leaving the harpsichord over-exposed. The Orchestra of St Luke's under Charles Mackerras displays a hearty rhythmic cheek.

But one should be a little wary of modern-instrument performances of this quintessentially 18th-century work and the Berlin Philharmonic is waterlogged from the start
— its slow Overture presages a performance as burly as Berlioz. I wasn't too keen on John Eliot Gardiner's English Baroque Soloists either - they take the famous Air with a swing, but other movements often steamroller through without sensitivity to the natural phrasing.
The naive charm of the G

major Minuet is beautifully captured by Christopher Hogwood's Academy of Ancient Music in a listenable overall recording, but in the end. I mento (Vanguard Classics 99713, £8,99). I have never heard the Water Music sound quite as fresh as this; bold. beautiful and damn good fun. Perfect party music.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery. please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 OBR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.

co.uk. Next Saturday, Radio 3 (Ham): MILLINGTON Dvorák's Cello Concerto

convincing. even if Dohnányi's measured reading hardly allowed it to make as exstart, in the half-hour-long on the other hand, was just first movement with its cortège-like processions. His right for the precisely project-ed and finely focused McTier sound in the Holloway, and second violins placed on the right and cellos next to the firsts on the left. Dohnányi And so to the Adagio finale. not at all inimical to an exuberant interpretation of Schuetched the profile of the varimann's Fourth Symphony.



he Chelsea Opera Group had done well by Verdi's first opera written for Paris: it gave a rare concert performance in the original French some 20 years ago, at a time when even the Paris Opéra was still performing it in Italian translation. It does matter: the French land guage governs the style of the vocal writing even more than in Don Carlos, and the composer took great pains over the word-setting.

However, Sunday's repeat tended to confirm that the concert platform is perhaps the best place for Les Vépres siciliennes — it's one of the most uneven of Verdi's operas. He had to make do with a secondhand libretto from the Scribe factory in which cardboard characters are put in stock situations the interest lies in the way Verdi's genius bursts through operatic formulas as restrictive as the cavatinacabaletta patterns he had tamed at home, and in the fact that he was flexing his muscles with the best orchestra and chorus of the day. The

OPERA Office of size at the fall

Italian genius in French

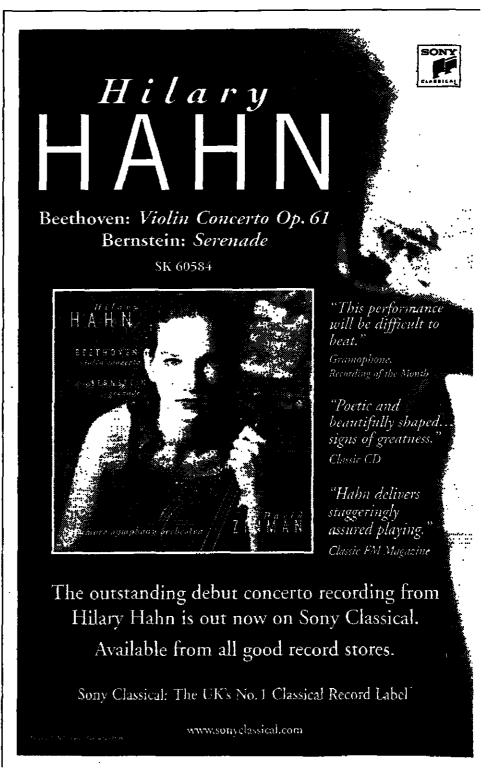
good bits are stunning, the less good bits workaday. The Australian conductor

Brad Cohen made the strongest possible case for the piece with rhythmic vitality, an infallible feel for the right tempo, a sense of structure and, when appropriate, some good honest vulgarity. The COG Orchestra and Chorus responded with enthusiasm. but without quite disguising the fact that some of the writing is

very tricky indeed. In an evening that might well have been subtitled 'Pardon my French", enunciation of the text ranged from the well-intentioned to the grotesque, and the baritone David Barrell (Guy de Montfort) had the best intentions of all: he really "thought" the lines, and shaped them with rare musical insight, Edmund Barham, who has been heard here far too little recently, coped heroically with Henri's relentlessly high-lying tessitura and used his impressive breath control to spin some long. Gallically elegant lines. It was sad that the only significant cut (apart from the ballet) deprived him of the scraphic little phrase sailing up to a

Hélène is another killerrole and Denia Mazzola attacked it fearlessly; slight of stature but with her flashing eyes looking every inch the Sicilian patriot, she has a huge. evenly distributed soprano and bags of technical agility - very impressive. The young Romanian bass Sorin Coliban (Procida) sounded more like a Boris Godunov in the making than a basse chantante, but the material offers boundless possibilities. Some of the singing in smaller roles was as workaday as some of the music. A solidly satisfying evening, all the same.

RODNEY MILNES



RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertalnment compiled by Mark Hargle

LONDON

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA: Trevor Num and John Caird direct black Trojans and white Greeks, with Peter de Jersey and Sophie Oktonedo. Offivier, South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). (2) Tonight, 7pm.

MARK BRUCE DANCE CO: Music inspired by Tom Walls forms the basis for Bruce's new solo for Diane Locamore, Kid Dratory Fre. A special commission for the Spring Loaded Festival. The Place (0171-387 0031). Tomght and Iomorrow, 8pm.

ANEMAL, CRACKERS: Ben Kaston, Joe Alexel and Toby Sedgwick play the three maniacs in a state version of the Marx Brothers movie. First seen at Manchester's Royal Exchange. Lyric, WI (0171-494 5045). Opens forught, 7pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Ofiver Krussen's two delightful fantesy operas, Higglety Puglety Prop! and Where the Wild Things Are, are given a concart performance by the London Sintonietta conducted by the composar, Repeated in the CEH, London, borrorow, Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm. (2)

HUMBERSIDE: The fruits of nine months' hard artistic lebour are reaped as the inmates from Wolds Prison as the immates from Works Prison joined by a clutch of professional performers premiere the rock musical Subtople. This large-scale speciacular, testuring lasers, indoor files and on electronic musical score, is created by Surmit Aris. A gale performance on Staturday will be transmitted live on the Net. Website: www.subtoples.co.uk



Immates from Wolds Prison perform Subtopia

MANCHESTER: In Jonethan Marcones ear in Joneson
Harvey's new play Hushabye
Mountain, dead Danny enjoys the
company of Judy Garland in Heave
with his boyfriend on Earth copes
with the hole in his title, Paul Miller directs this touring production. Library Theatre (0161-236 7110). Tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

WARWICK: In this celebrity concert the Stutigert Philhermonic is joined by the acclaimed plantet Barry Douglas who plays Brahme's pessionate First Piano Concerto. Music by Hindentith, Faure and Ravet make up the remainder of the programme. Jorge Peter Weigle conducts.

in MACBETH: Rulus Sewell and Sally Dexter play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's production. Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

N COPENHAGEN: Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Nets Bohr In wartune Denmark. Michael Prayn's engrossing play is directed by Michael Blakemore.

☐ BARTHOLOMEW FAIR: Laurence

Boswell's joby production of Ber Jonson's rumbustious comedy

Young Vic (0171-928 6363). 🔂

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:

☐ SHOCKHEADED PETER: Wonderfully sinister show by the Cultural industry team with the Tiger Littles and Martyn Jacques' traisetto screech. Lynic (0181-741 8701). ⑤

Mark Little makes his West End debut

In Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/women difference back to the caves. Apollo (0171-484 5070).

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London \blacksquare House full, returns only \blacksquare Some seats available \square Seats at all prices

☐ TRUST: Panick O'Kane plays a Belfast Mr Feit whose skills disastro ly lail his own family. Mich Gordon dracts new Gary Michell drama. Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

production, reopening this theatre. See review, right, Greenwich (0870 840 1111). (5)

☐ BLUE HEART: Caryl Churcher's wonderfully inventive pair of plays, revealing tamily troubles by way of tricks with words and time. Max Stafford-Clark directs for Out of Joint.

Theatre (0171-909 1800).

SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW: The excellent Slava Polunin returns, with new material, new clowns as well as his unforgettable finale. Theatre (0171-389 1734).

SPEER: Klaus Maria Brandauer directs and plays the title role of Hitter's master architect in Sather Vitar's drama. With Sven Eric Bechtoli

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Williams puts the comic stitches in this absurd medical movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter, Director Tom Shadyac extracts an obscene amount of sentiment with as little anaesthetic as possible.

PLEASANTVILLE (12): Ingenious spoof of American tamily values. Two dystunctional 1990s teenagers get TV soap. Great performances from Tobey Maguire, Jeff Daniels, and Reese Witherspoon.

CENTRAL STATION (15): Walter fabutous chemistry between a young boy in search of his identity, and a cynical ex-teacher in search of her SCHIZOPOLIS (18): Steven Soder-bergh's experimental settire on corporate arrolety is utter globerish, with camera angles and dialogue to

CURRENT

BELOVED (15): Oprah Winfrey is surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by politergeists, lynch

mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Derrune's overlong film lais, however, to get inside the testaring heart of Yori Monson's Pulitzer Prize winner. With Danny Glover, Thendie Newton, and Kimberly Else.

FESTEN (15): Thomas Vinterberg's biling, black, Danish larce leatures disastrous lamily raunion. Shot with hand-held cameras, it manages to look spontaneous, ghas

ame as STEPS (U): Hitchcock's withy take on Buchan's ripping yam is full of tabulous set pleoss. Robert Donat's smooth bachelor dashes across Scotland oursued by: across Scotland pursued by scampering police and ruthless spies. A romance and good hand-cuffing rarely feet more than a

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A THE THEN RED LINE (15): A gittering cest of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's artistic masterpiec stars Sean Penn, Jim Caviezal, Ben Chaptin, and Nick Note.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Builet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Henks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

Nigel Cliff sees an over-performed Shakespeare tragedy and a little-performed Gogol comedy

Noises on and off

Hamlet in Act V: his dying words. It is one of those peculiarly Shakespearean phrases which seem simple enough, but suggest an awful lot more than they say. In death, in silence, Hamlet finally manages to suit the action to the word -the advice he gave to the actors earlier. But plays (if not this play) are neater than life, and the moment cannot last. On cue, in marches Fortinbras with his drums and guns to give the philosopher-prince an incongruous and far from silent soldier's funeral, which he blithely proclaims will "speak loudly for him".

Hamlet is arguably the most elaborately silent character in literature. The more words, words he unleashes, the less we know him - the less, though to say so is a contradiction too, he knows himself. Noise, in this most elusive of plays, is often meaning-

LONDON THEATRE

less, silence seldom empty. These ironies are lost, though, in Christopher Geelan's ham-handed production at the newly reopened Greenwich Theatre, which ends more with a whimper than with a bang and which sports, in Rupert Wickham, the loudest Hamlet I can remember. Spluttering with petulant pique, spitting out his solilo-quies, thwarted by events rather than stymied by endless self-examination, this is Hamlet as angry young man rather than as metaphysical merce-

It makes for a certain nervous energy and the semblance of clarity. But this is a glib and meretricious interpretation. which fails to hold water even after a whopping number of lines have been ditched. Hamlet has to be cut, but there is judicious pruning and there is senseless hacking. Though Wickham is man-

nered, he at least holds the attention and speaks the verse clearly. Most manage far less. Colin Farrell and Paul Thornley play Polonius and Guildenstern for easy laughs: they raise a fair few. but overdo it. David Sterne's Claudius is totally lacking in presence; Alwyne Taylor's brassy Gertrude is better. It was a misfor the Ghost: the device is form play. awkward, and it robs his resounding words of their necessary force.

No help is offered by Bridget Kimak's crude set, billed as 'startling and disjointed", actually three banks of rudimentary steps on which a Jackson Pollock fan seems to have been let loose. The costumes are a bizarre ragbag of periods and styles. Perhaps it was the school parties making their presence loudly felt in the audience — a laudably ambitious outreach programme is run-



Murder most welcome: Hamlet (Rupert Wickham) contemplates killing his father (David Sterne) in Greenwich

ore hammy acting is on display across at the Battersea Arts Centre in Double Edge Drama's new version of Gogol's littleknown play, Gamblers. But this time, thankfully, it is deliberate. This tightly plotted little piece, well served by Joe Spen-ce's free and easy adaptation. deals with the gulling of a naive provincial card-sharp by a band of worldly-wise conmen. Since the sting is not re-

thing fishy is going on without making it too obvious. The trick is a set of ever-so-subtly dodgy performances from the six fraudsters, and a game of dare with the audience. It is a brave cast who spend a whole play playing characters playing other characters badly. inevitably you wonder at first whether they are acting bad

acting, or just bad actors.
With hindsight, the six pull off their assigned caricatures - the etiolated Frenchman. the militaristic German, the puritanical provincial Russian mains seldom performed. But

ning in tandem with the vealed until the end, the challandowner and the like — with there is a satisfying economy production — but the whole lenge for the director. Charlie thing reminded me of a sixth- Wood, is to signal that some control. Particularly enjoyable orchestrated in Wood's fastpaced production. are Paul Parris as a cheeky young inn-keeper (a Russian At times, perhaps, it is too version of Sam Weller from The Pickwick Papers), Roger Braban as the landowner, and Paul Curran as his son Young

> booby until it transpires he is in on the game. Of course, it is also a brave writer who lets you think he can only create stereotypes un-til the last minute of his play: this difficulty no doubt ex-plains why Gamblers was left unfinished by Gogol and re-

Glov, who seems the ultimate

fast: the cast seem unsure whether they are playing a farce or a black comedy. It is, indeed, somewhere between the two, but could benefit from being pitched more towards

But this is a likeable little teaser of a production. The card-table scenes are particu-larly well brought off: they bristle with tension, intrigue, and the double-dealing that the play suggests is part of the game of life.

Higher hurdles please *

he ten members of Phoenix Dance put you in mind of racehorses. champing at the bit in their eagerness to be off and running. So it seems a shame that the current repertory doesn't al-ways provide the Leeds-based company with the highest cho-

reographic hurdles.

The first half of the programme is a neatly balanced conceit three consecutive duets, with scarcely any pause in between. Cornered, created and originally performed by Phoenix dancer Andile Sotiya and former company member Warren Adams, clearly sprang from their own athleticism. With their jack-knife jumps and somersaults, Gee Goodison and Hugh Davis are equally vivid replace ments, seeming to crowd each other even on a bare stage. The dance's few cliches (an opening cry of "Freedom!", a mimetic beating against invisible bars) are easily forgiven.

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Rap artist/poet Jonzi D's Us Must Trust Us is a study of faulty friendship grounded in street life. Clad in the urban uniform of baggy trousers and trainers. Nicola Moses and Maria Ryan make an engaging team. Featuring both voiceover and spoken text, the piece shifts from casual conversation to a state of crisis. Suddenly these young women are bad-mouthing each other ("She lusts for everything but trust"), while their previously in-sync, wriggling variations on club dance go pear-shaped. Their repetitious moves reflect a jazzy rap soundtrack... The Phoenix artistic director

Thea Nerissa Barnes's The Last Word is more problematic Sotiya and Sharon Stern wheel out a butterfly-backed two-seat chair; pushing and shoving it — and each other around in a prickly search for supremacy. Littered with display-like lifts and throws, their argumentative intimacy remains stubbornly superficial. These two fine dancers need better choreography than this to take advantage of their liquid-limbed power.

Dwight Roden's splashy. high-concept ensemble dance, PerigriNations.. Too much of the cast's time is spent fussily toting, tossing, bouncing and rolling about the giant silver balls and cage-like stools designed by Julie Watson. With its rampant flinging and writhing, the only place this Vegasstyle piece seems to be heading towards is oblivion, although it does show off the company's fitness, drive and skill. Trust the dancers, not the dance.

DONALD HUTERA

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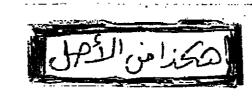
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Whigs and whinges

CINEMA: With The Deep End of the Ocean Michelle Pfeiffer confirms her intent to shed her delectable-doll image. Giles Whittell reviews the results

Sadder, older, but is it wiser?

has made anoth-er very serious film. Her last, A Thousand Acres, told the story of a rancid old father dividing his land, Lear-like, between three adult daughters. It dallied in incest, cancer, child abuse and alcoholism.

This one, The Deep End of the Ocean, involves a mother who loses an adorable threeyear-old and doesn't find him for nine years. It's all about shock, grief, remorse, marital frain and reconciliation, and everyone involved performs with talent and finesse.

But the image I took away was of Pfeiffer's pencil-thin plucked eyebrows wandering distractedly toward her fringe. It's not just the eyebrows. It's the protruding bones they should be protecting. It's the drawn cheeks, the pale makeup, the scraped-back hair, the pinched nose, the veined temples and the relentlessly pained expression. What happened here? Why is the siren of The Fabulous Baker Boys doing this to herself, and us?

To be fair, these emotional stretch-marks have less to do with Pfeiffer than with Beth Cappadora, whom she plays. They are the utterly convincing features of a woman on the edge of a nervous breakdown. The lost child nightmare is the forst most parents can imag-e, but from the point of view of the novelist or film-maker it has the advantage of leaving grown-ups in the picture to emote, share dialogue and carry along a plot

McEwen discovered this in The Child in Time, in which the child goes missing in a supermarket and quie hell ensues. Jacquelyn Mitchard used similar ingredients in the book on which this film is based. Meryl Streep put herself through the wringer in A Cry in the Dark, as did Nicole Kidman in Dead Calm (in which the child dies, flying through a windscreen early on, but the wrestling with guilt is of the genre). And the loss of a child was also the trigger of Nicolas Roeg's 1973 supernatu-

> formances are concerned, Michael Fein-

stein has come and gone. But if you missed him, there is al-

ways the consolation of a new

series of his illuminating "songbook" show on Radio

on Friday (7pm). The Ameri-



ral classic. Don't Look Now Pfeiffer's performance is at least as dramatic as Streep's or Kidman's. It opens in a crowded high school reunion in Chicago, to which Beth, as a proud Mum, brings her three children rather than a business card.

When cute Ben goes Awol he leaves only a half-caten sandwich on the hotel floor. His mother is at first self-possessed enough to describe his sneakers and cap on live TV. but then she goes to pieces. She screams. She bites her hus-

and the knowledge that she

is no sop to an ageing sex symbol. Its central performance is real and fearless, but with Pfeiffer there is inevitably a Hello! subtext. Because she was once such a doll, everything she does now is at least



band's wrist involuntarily. She sleeps for days on end,

has stopped functioning as a wife to her husband or a mother to her other children only deepens her depression when she wakens — though unlike the rest of the family she refuses to pretend life can go back to normal. In one especially effective scene she breaks out of a mask of forced composure on Christmas Day to rail at her relatives for making light of Ben's absence by bringing gifts for him.

The Deep End of the Ocean



partly a study in the physical maintenance of a beautiful woman. How does she look? How is she getting on, given that, at 41, she's getting on?
To be honest, she looks as if she's had an unnecessary nip and tuck or two. Either that, or everyone else who goes under the plastic surgeon's scalpel nowadays asks to look like Michelle Pfeiffer. Whichever it is, her taut face and famously bee-stung lips add a continu-

them all, including the \$20 million-per-film leading men. Still, she should lighten up a bit. A review of her recent filmography reminds us of The Russia House, with Sean Con-Daily Variety, whose critics nery, and Up Close and Per-

are read carefully within Hollywood, ranked her personal, with Robert Redford. Both were nicely acted, but neither was a barrel of laughs. formance here as one of her Next came A Thousand Acres. very best and forecast a whose script Pfeiffer's hus-band called "one of the best healthy few months for it at the box office. There is no reaand most malignant" he had ever seen. Filming it upset her son to doubt the oracle. Amazingly, a recent survey of A-list stars found Pfeiffer to be the deeply and "put an incredible most commercially reliable of strain on my marriage because I was so difficult to be

around", she said.

She didn't work for a year, but then it was Mitchard's book she chose, optioning and producing it herself and cast-ing herself as Ma Cappadora. She rejected an initial script as too sentimental, hiring Stephen Schiff, who wrote Adrian Lyne's Lolita screenplay, for a second attempt.

The result focuses overwhelmingly on her character

(Whoopi Goldberg's lesbian detective appears in only a handful of scenes), and it hardly paints her sympathetically. There were times during production." she said recently, when I said to myself, Why am I doing this? What was I thinking?

Those are very good questions. At one point in the filmher husband warns her that

reer out of being unhappy. and back in real life she is taking the same risk. She can be funny (as in Married to the Mob) and she can still melt the hearts of men, so why not do a good romantic cornedy? She will, almost. In an all-star version of A Midsummer Night's Dream due out in May, she plays Titania:

THISESEMIMIES



Mother in distress: Michelle Pfeiffer digs deep into family trauma — and emphasises her determination to shed her delectable doll image — in her new movie The Deep End of the Ocean

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

ous note of poignancy

ready sombre film.

1 (1) Analyze This (Warner Bros)					
2 (-) The Rage: Carrie (MGM)					
4 (-) The Corruptor (New Line)					
5 (-) Bairy Geniuses (TriStar)					
6 (-) The Deep End of the Ocean (Columbia)					
7 (-) Wing Commander (Twentieth Century Fox)					
8 (4) The Other Sister (Touchstone)					
9 (3) SNOM (Columbia)					
• First amount is estimated weekend takings, March 12-14. Second amount					

is total takings to March 9. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

Evergreen songs treated with wit

 For the second week Robert De Niro dominates the American box office with his Mafia comedy Analyze This. Topearning new release is The Rage: Carrie 2, a sequel released 23 years after Brian De Palma's original. Cruel Intentions is a high-school version of Les Liaisons Dangéreuses

tea dance. Slap That Bass, tak en at a more sultry tempo than usual with the guitar and

drums slowly edging into view, was one of the few en-

semble numbers to make an

Otherwise it was a question of waiting for Feinstein to put the band on hold and switch to

a more intimate ambience. Pa-

tience was rewarded. As on his

Michael and George, clever

to the echo of fragments of

more than a dozen themes, in-

cluding A Foggy Day and Love Walked In. The member of the

audience who vainly called a

request for *But Not For Me* im-

mediately heard Feinstein

smuggle a phrase or two into

his haunting version of Love Is

Here To Stay. At his spontane-

Embraceable You unfurled

juxtapositions abound.

Gershwin album,

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS COMPETITION

TOKENS FOR YOUR SCHOOL





he Times, with Virgin Radio, is giving three schools the chance to win a prize of 100,000 Books for Schools tokens each. These tokens could provide the three winning schools with up to 1,000 books each. (That's almost a library full.)

Registered schools can enter today and all this week. Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday your school could be featured on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show between 6.30am-9.30am: Schools which have entered will be chosen at random to take part in this great

Books for Schools competition. Make sure your Books for Schools representative fills in the form, below, and your school could be featured live on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show on Virgin Radio next week.

Postal entries need to arrive by first post on Friday, March 19, 1999, and should be sent to:

PO Box 5075, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GF. Or fax the form to: 08701 267 571

Or send the information requested on the entry form via e-mail to: booksforschools@the-times.co.uk

THEXITIMES VIRGIN RADIO BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS COMPETITON FORM



215AN NATIONWIDE 105-8FM LONDON

Post this completed entry form to: The Times Books for Schools/Virgin RadioCompetition,

PO Box 5075, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GF. Or fax it to: 08701 267 571 (national daytime rate). It must arrive by first post on Friday, March 19, 1999. Normal Virgin Radio competition rules apply

Books for Schools reference numb

CHANGING TIMES

moves away from intimate balcan planist's love affair with lads. The Best Is Yet To Come the golden age of popular song and The Tender Trap should always makes for absorbing really be left to Tony Bennett. radio. Not only does he know the music inside out, he knew Beneath the suave repartee also lies an undeniably sugary many of the craftsmen - from ira Gershwin to Burton Lane

lichael Feinsteir Barbican

our and resonance once he

None of this mattered as - who lived through the rise much when Feinstein played a and fall of an era. glorious West End theatre resi-As a performer in his own dency a few years ago. But on right he has always been more that occasion he accompanied of an acquired taste, as this Barbican show confirmed. himself on the piano. his fin-The fastidious diction certaingers constantly supplying ly gives him an edge in convey-

terse asides and syncopations. At the Barbican, on the other ing the word-play intricately hand, he made room for decowoven into so many vintage rous. semi-jazz arrangements songs. He is funny, too - witness his lightning condensa-th of the score of Oklahoma! for sextet. The impish Bobby Short, Tet the voice often lacks col-

ow into their second decade, the

Afghan Whigs from Ohio have had a lean time lately. They re-

main one of the most talented and respect-

ed rock groups to have emerged from the

grunge era. But their poorly promoted al-

burn. 1965, released towards the end of last year, gained none of the attention lav-

ished on recent recordings by contemporaries such as Mercury Rev and Sebadoh.

and they remain an act who can rely, at

This, it seemed, was not deemed good enough, and at a well-attended show on

the last night of a brief British tour the

singer Greg Dulli started haranguing the

crowd almost from the outset for respond-

ing to the group's performance with insuf-

ficient zeal. When one of the backing singers stridently weighed in with the same

complaint, you began to wonder for

whose benefit the band imagined the slaw was being staged.

Frankly, any lethargy that could be detected among the audience was doubtless

best, on a cult following in this country.

doyen of New York cabaret.



in a more intimate mood has taken a similar tack on his recent albums, but with an al-

together livelier swing band. If Short offers a tantalising hint of the Cotton Club, Feinstein

lip, guys

Afghan Whigs

Astoria

induced by the long-winded and self-inflat-

ed nature of the gig. Almost every number

began with an extended vamp incorporat-

ing segments of old soul songs such as

Papa Was A Rolling Stone, Superstition and Don't Stop Till You Get Enough.

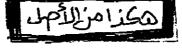
ous best, he turns a concert hall into a saloon. CLIVE DAVIS Cut out the

"sexy" nature of the B minor chord, at one point spending the best part of 20 minutes introducing various band members. When the songs eventually got under way there were some immensely powerful

performances ranging from the soul-funk groove of Neglekted to the supremely muscular yet tuneful rock riffing of 66 and Crazy. An interminable stretch of "encores" yielded a rip-roaring Citi Soleil followed by a formidable version of the Rolling Stones's Beast Of Burden, which was about the only number in the entire set to be played straight from start to finish.

A good enough singer to make a convincing John Lennon on the soundtrack of the 1994 movie Backbeat, Dulli fulfilled his musical role on the Astoria stage with bullish authority. But as his egotistical monologues became progressively more slurred and less engaging, so the rest of the band appeared to switch off and enthusiasm gradually dwindled.

Meanwhile Dulli, drink and cigarette in hand, extemporised garrulously on sub-DAVID SINCLAIR jects ranging from English cars to the



David Powell looks at the rejuvenated Great North Run, launched nationally for the first time today

Running success lifts party mood

FROM a brass band at the entry last year, from British winners only in the early days to an international roll of honour embracing Olympic champions and world record-

This is the BUPA Great North Run, about which they used to joke in Newcastle Look at all those people running across the Tyne Bridge. There must be jobs going in

Given the recent redundan cies in the North East, the joke may still have life in it, but the annuai half-marathon mirrors the other side of the area

 its energy and party spirit.
 Newcastle was named by an American travel agency as the eighth best party city in the world and one of the challenges of a weekend at the Great North Run in October, according to Brendan Foster, the event founder, is in avoiding the temptations of the Saturbody and soul for the race the





next morning. The nineteenth Great North Run is launched today in conjunction with The

This is the first time that the event has been launched nationally rather than just locally," Foster said. Gone are the days when the Great North Run was dominated by

In the past two years it has spread its wings. In 1997, for the first time, there were runners from all 120 postal dis-

Last year, after putting the entry form on the Internet, a record overseas entry was achieved, with runners from For the first ten years, the

event drew 80 to 90 per cent of North East Now, 60 per cent are from outside the area. First held in 1981, the same

ear as the inaugural London Marathon, the Great North Run is similar in size, if not quite punching weight. The London Marathon last year was completed by 29,924 peole; the Great North Run by

The Great North Run does not command the same attention but Foster believes that. by setting out his stall national-



Expansion bridge: Forty thousand competitors make an impressive sight as they pour over the Tyne Bridge during the hugely popular BUPA Great North Run last year

strength similar to the London Marathon.

Our aspirations are led by London," Foster said. "The London Marathon is a fantastic event and, if people put us in the same bracket, we would

Important in the Great North Run's development is its junior race on the Satur-

My ambition is to see a kid who wins the junior Great North Run go on to win the Great North Run," Foster said. Perhaps Philip Downes, ther way, he has set one record For ten years, the Great that is unlikely to be equalled winning the junior race,

event the next day.

Athletes must be under 17 to compete in the junior event. To be accepted for the big one, participants must be 17 or

then lining up for the senior

over. Downes won the junior title on his last day as a 16-yearold and ran the half-marathon, finishing 2,131st, on his 17th birthday.

North Run grew to a peak of 32,900 entries in 1991. Then it dropped to 26,800 in 1994, but recognised its error and corrected it. When numbers fell it was a consequence of staging the half-marathon world

championships in conjunction "We frightened people off,"

Foster said. "They were saying it was no longer the race they loved. Now we don't do any thing that upsets customers."

Hence, this year, there will no expansion on the 40,000 entries accepted last year, when thousands spent longer in carpark exit queues than it had taken them to run the race. Fosproblem before thinking bigger. The Great North Run roll. honour is impressive, including Carlos Lopes, Rob de Castella, Grete Waitz, Rosa Mota, Ingrid Kristiansen, Liz

the world cross-country champion, and Josiah Thugwane, the Olympic marathon champion, joined them. O'Sullivan

☐ For entry forms to the

ICE HOCKEY: BRACKNELL SHED TAG OF ALSO-BANS WITH BACK-TO-BACK WINS

Bees put spanner in works as Wheel turns to confront elite favourites face new challenge

SNOW REPORTS

120 120 Good Open Powder

138 160 Good

SUDDENLY and unexpectedly, the "group of death" in the Sekonda play-off champion-ship is shaping up to be that containing the champions, Manchester Storm, and Shef-field Steelers, the Challenge Cup finalists, this weekend. Group B had looked like pro-

viding the real drama as eight clubs vie for four places for the climax in Manchester on April 3 and 4. A case for advancement could be made for Nottingham Panthers, Cardiff Devils and Ayr Scottish Eagles, with only Newcastle Riverkings the designated

makeweights.

Bracknell Bees, though, have turned group A into a three-way fight. The supposed also-rans, alongside London, left their mark on the favourites. Manchester and Shef-

field, inside 24 hours. First, they reduced the with a 4-2 victory, then under-

Canada
Late Lorise
France
Aipe d'Huez
France
Aipe d'Huez
France
La Clucaz
La Plagne
La Tama
Les Arcs
Megeve
Méribel
Tignes
Val Thorens
Val Thorens
Val d'Isare
Valmorel
Italy
Cevinia
Cortina
Livigno
Norway
Gelic
Switzerand
Craris Monta
Davos

lined why they are Sheffield's jinx team by beating the Steel-ers 4-3. The Steelers, fresh from their 4-3 overtime win in London, had seemed to be returning to something like the force of old, having lost just one of their previous 13 home games, but something in the Sheffield air appears to agree with Bracknell.
This was their third victory

in four visits this season and they have won all but one of their seven meetings. Their enhanced by the injuries affecting Manchester Storm:
Brad Rubachuk, Storm's
aggressive talisman of a for-

ward, left Bracknell with his neck in a brace after a collision with the huge Paxton Schulte. He was one of four who missed the 4-1 dismissal of London on Sunday. Storm were so stretched that Darren Hurley needed medical clearance to play after being concussed at



Bracknell. If the doctor had said no, a defenceman would have been drafted into the attacking line.

Nottingham Panthers have made giant strides towards reaching their third final of the campaign. If the Benson and Hedges Cup holders and Challenge Cup finalists take their expected win at home at Newcastle tonight, they can

almost book their place. Ayr's desperate attempt to salvage something from a season of anticlimax proved insufficient against the Panthers' collective drive. They lost 3-2 and then slumped 6-3 in Wales against Cardiff, who have ambitions of making up for their failure to keep the Sekonda Superleague title from Manchester

MOTOR RACING

BAR backs off over liveries

By Kevin Eason

THE dispute between British American Racing (BAR) and American Kacing toron, and the FIA, the governing body of Formula One, should be resolved within two weeks after a climbdown by the sport's newest team. BAR faced suspension from the sport after flouting the rules on tobacco sponsorship during its first grand prix in Australia a fortnight ago. The team launched its cars in the

different liveries of two cigarette brands owned by its backers, British American Tobacco. The FIA was angered when BAR's lawyers complained to the European Union because the liveries were banned. Max Mosley, the FIA president, warned that BAR had "put two fingers up" to Formula One and was jeopardising

concessions negotiated with governments around the world over tobacco sponsorship because of its aggressive entry into the sport.

However, Craig Pollock, the BAR managing director, apologised to the FIA and said that lawyers had acted without instructions from him. He now has a fortnight to explain his lawyers' actions and prove that the team was not trying to usurp the governing body and rules agreed by all the teams in Formula One.

Mosley said yesterday: "It would not be fair to penalise the team if what Mr Pollock said was correct and lawyers were taking actions he knew nothing about. As long as we have that guarantee, the matIMAGINE riding a mountain bike downhill at speeds of up to 45mph over a course of jumps, banked turns and chicanes. Now add a second rider trying to beat you to the bottom. That is the dual slalom, or "duel", which is joining the established disciplines of cross country (a full Olympic sport) and downhill in the RAV4 mountain bike series and

national championships. The seven-event series, which begins on Saturday at Cheddar Gorge, Somerset, with a downhill-only meeting, determines national champions and international squads. The duel makes its debut at the meeting on April 24 and 25 at Hopton, Shropshire. Will Longden, sixth in the

duel World Cup Series, hopes his particular speciality will

the adrenaline, 'extreme sports' side," he said. "Cross country is the athletic side.

ies may attract as many as 400 entrants, divided into categories such as elite, veterans, masters, junior and "fun". The higher levels require licences

also claim Olympic status. and ranking points, but virtu-"Downhill and duel are more ally anyone can take part in the lower categories of cross country, often simply by turn-

ing up on the day; downhill, being a timed discipline, requires qualification via regional competitions. With the price of bikes at the top of the range approaching £4,000, sponsorship is, of

course, a necessity for the elite group. Helen Mortimer, whose third place in the duel in the Grundig World Curp in France last year was part of a best-ever performance by a British woman, wears an outfit sporting as many logos as

that of a Formula One driver.
"It's difficult for women to
earn a living out of it," she
said. "Men have better spon-

percentage wise, because they get more coverage," she said. They can't jump as well, but possibly are more photogenic. most readers of mountain-bik-

ing magazines are men."
Although she would only
admit to making "a reasonable fiving", it was enough to
allow her to spend three
months training in Australia.

In the elite category, {
downhill and 50 cross-country riders are professional to some extent. No more than ten exist only on sponsorship and the re-tainer paid by teams, usually run by bike manufacturers such as Giant UK. Others rely on prize-money, appearances and other sources of income: an entrepreneurial approach

is required in what is a new sport still inventing itself. According to Justin Lorentz, of Mountain Biking UK magazine, which runs a team that includes Longden and Morti-mer, one of the best uses of funding is to enable British rid-ers to travel to Europe, where the locals are able to ride regularly against wider fields and on longer and steeper, and so

more challenging, courses.

Lorentz finds it encouraging that Toyota UK is sponsoring the Mountain Bike Series for a second year. "It's only been 20 years from the first bikes by ing cobbled together to it be coming a multimillion-pound sport," he said.

Attendances of around 2,000 are expected for the series events, but sponsors can expect to benefit from increas-ing TV coverage that will help, but not drive, the sport's development. "It's a foot in the door thing, then a momentum thing, Lorentz said. "It's better that the sport's good first, then televised later."

Longden said: "I think it could become a lot more popular agracially the dual."

lar, especially the duel." Because of the danger inher-

ent in so-called extreme sports? "If you think of the danger, you wouldn't bother." Longden said.

"I've been racing since I was five. I've broken an arm, dislo-cated a shoulder and smashed." my knee up. It sounds a le but over 24 years it's not bad And it's not compulsory.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: DUAL SLALOM MAKES FIRST APPEARANCE NEXT MONTH IN RAV4 SERIES

with duel at high speed By NICK SZCZEPANIK sorship - more money - but more women are sponsored

"In duel, the top 32 based on timed descents go head-tohead until there are only two left. It's supposed to be noncontact, but there is contact, as you can imagine." Not just with other competitors: plenty of contact is made with the ground, trees and other objects, so that as few as 30 per cent of the starters make it to

the bottom without mishap. Each event in the RAV4 ser-





umstron returns to probler position

RUGBY UNION

leltic build thei vision for futur

Armstrong returns to fill problem position

HAVING capped two scrum halves in one international against Italy ten days ago. Scotland have reverted to the tried and trusted Gary Armstrong for the Five Nations Championship meeting with Ireland at Murrayfield on Saturday. Armstrong, who has made 43 previous appearances for his country, has recov-ered from the elbow injury that forced him to miss the victory over Italy. He also regains the eaptaincy from

In Armstrong's absence, lain Fairley, of Kelso and Edin-burgh Reivers, made his debut against Italy, as did Graeme Burns as a replacement when Fairley hurt his shoulder. Armstrong, 32, is the only change to a 22-man squad announced in Edinburgh yesterday and is likely to be the one change to the team that will be anamed tomorrow.

Jim Telfer, the coach, seems certain to stick with an otherwise settled side, the benefits of which are readily appar-ent."It makes a huge differ-ence." Teller said. "It means we can get to work on the training ground straightaway. The guys who are not in the team are not there, because, at the moment, they are not good

Into that category fall Mat-thew Proudfoot, the South African-born prop, who has yet to recover full match fitness after his lengthy absence through injury. Even if he had been fully fit. Telfer said that the form of Paul Burnell, a survivor from the 1990 grand-slam team, made him an automatic

Gordon Simpson, the New Zealand-born flanker who was expected to establish himthe Scotland pack this season, but whose prospects have been blighted by injury, will start another comeback for a Scottish Districts XV against the French Military in

Glasgow tonight. Armstrong thought he had broken his elbow after an incident involving Tom Smith two weeks ago, and Telfer will be relieved that the he did not do so, especially as Bryan Redpath will miss the remainder of the season because of his ankle injury. With Andy Nicol having only recently resumed playing. Scotland's scrum half locker looked decidedly bare. Having captained Scotland

CELTIC yesterday introduced

a new chief executive, who

promised to take the Scottish champions to the heights that

he scaled in the business

Allan MacDonald, the man-

aging director of British Aero-space, was brought to Celtic

Park by Fergus McCann, the

outgoing chairman, who de-

scribed the 47-year-old recruit

as "someone who will do the

job much better than I have

McCann, the majority share-

holder at Celtic, has a remit

that straddles both the plc and football club, and only last

month appointed Frank O'Cal-

laghan. a prominent hotel-chain executive, to take over as

Chairman of the plc. What McCann, O'Callaghan and now MacDonald share, apart

from their success in various

business enterprises, is their

lifelong love of Celtic, which

they can now indulge in a bid

to restore the club to its former

All were young men when Celtic won the European Cup

in 1967 and reached another

final_three_years later and

MacDonald wants that pres-

tige to return, hoping to better Manchester United's rebirth

of the Nineties. "I want to

build on the foundations here

and develop Celtic plc into the most successful British club.

in all regards, but especially in

terms of Europe," he said.

MacDonald, who retained

his Celtic season ticket despite

living in London, was a teenag-

position of power.

"vision for future

By PHIL GORDON

against Wales and England. Armstrong watched the game against Italy on television. Our defence was a bit slack. Italy seeemd to break through quite easily, and we will be looking to work on that this week. There is plenty to work on," he said.

His words were echoed by Telfer. "We were disappointed at how we played. The players fell below the standards they had set themselves, especially at the start of the second half. We are capable of scoring some very good tries but we got sucked into the middle far too easily."

Wales provide the opposi-tion for Italy in Treviso this weekend and Graham Henry, Telfer's counterpart, has made one change to the side that won so handsomely in Paris. Gareth Thomas, of Cardiff, is preferred to Matthew Robinson, of Swansea, on the right wing. Thomas, the scorer of 14 tries in 31 appearances, came on as a replacement for Robinson against France. Surgery on an injured shoulder ruled him out of the earlier games, against Scotland and Ireland.

Gareth has always been our first choice on the wing, but it is unfortunate that anyone should be left out after the win in Paris," Henry said. "Matthew had a disappointing game against France and clearly international rugby is a learning process for him." Clive Woodward will today

announce the England side to play France at Twickenham on Saturday. His one dilemma is finding a replacement for Paul Grayson at fly half. Mike Catt is the obvious choice and his selection would cause minimum disruption, but the temptation might be to switch Jonny Wilkinson to a position he is expected to make his own in the not too distant future. However, in the continued absence of Will Greenwood, that does not appear a

realistic option at present. Oswestry have appealed against the decision to dock them 90 league points for playing a a suspended player under an alias. The Shropshire side, who had led the North Midlands second division, were found guilty of including Ross Roberts, a former Wrexham centre, under the name of Terry Smith. Roberts was banned for a year last season for assaulting a referee.

He said: "Celtic have always

been part of the European

scene and we must try to get back the great success of the

Sixties and Seventies. Howev-

er, the dynamic of football eco-

nomics are changing. Celtic

need to be part of that, especial-

ly if it is a European league."

MacDonald has spent most of his working life with British Aerospace, where he was

responsible for the Jetstream

aircraft, and was appointed OBE in 1996 for services to

aviation. His appointment

heightens a blue-chip plc

board at Celtic, which includes

Brian Quinn, a former Bank

McCann, who is moving

abroad within the next two

months, insisted that this was

the kind of structure football

clubs need to maximise their potential. "Celtic has to grow if

it wants to be a success in

Europe," he said. "We have

built a good platform over the

last five years, but you need

the resources and business

ability to market the product."

Rangers yesterday entered the race to sign the Dutch for-ward, Michael Mols, 27, the

Dutch forward, from FC

Utrecht. Mols was shown

around ibrox in a bid to persunde him to choose the Scot-

tish club when he becomes a

free agent in the summer. Shef-

field Wednesday, Marseilles

The Scottish Football Associ-

ation yesterday fined Dick

Advocaat, the Rangers manag-

er. £1.000 and "severely cen-

sured" him for his behaviour

and Ajax are also interested.

of England director.



Chapman was the leading tryscorer in the English game last season but now finds himself on the rugby scrapheap

Chapman cast out into cold

Dominic Chapman made his debut for England against Australia after a memorable first season with Richmond in which he finished as the top tryscorer in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. This week he is putting his flat on the market, selling his car and signing on at the social security office in Kingston. He is among the first

victims of professional rug-

by's recession, but certainly vill not be the last. That will be of scant consolation to Chapman, 23, as he attempts to pull together the threads of his life that unravelled so suddenly last week vhen his contract was terminated by the administrators at Richmond. Today he meets with the others who suffered a similar fate - Laurent Cabannes, Adrian Davies and

Jim Hamilton-Smith. Over lunch they will discuss what they should, or can, do. They have approached the Professional Rugby Players Association for help, but in their hearts they all realise that there is little prospect of

FOOTBALL: NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR CHAMPIONS

Celtic build their McAllister gives

Mark Souster on a player suffering the effects of the chill winds starting to blow through professional rugby

wasn't going to get many games," he said. For some

reason, which he was never

explained to him, he fell out of

favour with John Kingston,

the Richmond director of

rugby. The situation deterio-

rated rapidly. Chapman be-

came disillusioned by his ina-

bility to impress Kingston and

his confidence suffered. The

writing was on the wall and

he knew he would not be

Dealer West

receiving any money, let alone finding another club in the present climate.

"It was pretty brutal," Chapman said yesterday. "We had been called to attend a meeting with the administrators last Wednesday at which we were to be told what was happening. An hour beforehand the phone went, and I was told I was out there and then. I asked what I was going to get, and was told 'absolutely nothing

Chapman scored 31 league and cup tries last season after moving from Harlequins, a strike-rate that had Ireland and England coveting his services. He returned from England's summer tour like many, chastened by the experience but determined to

improve as a player. "I started the season fitter. faster and stronger than ever. But it soon became clear that I

mer. Gordon Strachan, the

Coventry manager, will be

heartened by the news from

his midfield player, as his side

remain in relegation trouble

A relieved McAllister said

yesterday: "There is nothing

broken or tractured in any

way. We will give things a couple of days to settle down

and I am very hopeful of being

fit to play at Arsenal on

Saturday. I'm generally a quick healer.

looked horrendous on Satur-

day and was really badly

swollen. That's why I was

taken straight to hospital

when I had to come off in the

last thing I wanted was any

more bad news after being out of action for the best part of a

McAllister has always har-

boured hopes of earning an

international recall after miss-

ing out on France 1998 and his

form, together with injury trou-bles for Scotland, could herald

his return. Brown said: "I

thought McAllister might be

finished at this level, but he

has battled back and has been playing brilliantly." McAllister said: "It's nice

when the Scotland manager

says things like that and, in

terms of my fitness, there will

be no problem at the end of the

month. Anyone who has

known me for any length of

time knows I never talk about

my own form. I let others do

year with the knee injury."

"I'm so relieved, because the

second half.

"I have to admit the ankle

despite a recent revival.

Brown a boost

By Our Sports Staff

GARY MCALLISTER has

revealed that the ankle injury

he sustained against Blackburn Rovers last Saturday is

not serious, which is a great

boost for Craig Brown, the

Coventry City, his FA Carling

McAllister, 34, feared the

worst after limping off the field at Highfield Road, but

X-rays have shown nothing

worse than bruising and swell-ing and McAllister is "very

hopeful" of returning against

He said there would be "no

problem" with the ankle in

relation to Scotland's Europe-

an championship games with Bosnia and the Czech Repub-

lic at the end of the month if.

as expected, he is recalled to

the squad by Brown. McAllister has been in

prime form in recent weeks for

Coventry after putting behind

him a nine-month layoff with

a knee injury, which prevent-

ed him playing in the World

Cup finals in France last sum-

Arsenal on Saturday.

Premiership club.

manager,

hoped to use the remaining three months of his contract to sort out his future.

Now he has no idea which direction his life will take. He abandoned a university degree on leaving Harlequins and has no other professional qualifications. "I haven't a chie what I'm going to do. I am not looking forward to signing on," he said.

He denies claims made by Kingston at the weekend that he is about to retire from rugby, mentally scarred by his experience in Australia, and may try to carry on in the ional game. "Maybe things will get better after the World Cup," he said.

SPEEDWAY

Van Straaten relishes uncertainty

AFTER a winter of discontent, the season that opened last night at Reading is a vital one for speedway. The British Speedway Promoters' Association (BSPA), which governs the sport, has changed its chairman, replacing Terry Russell with Chris van Straaten, and decided to reduce the standard of the Elite League, its flagship

competition.

The ensuing manoeuvres from clubs descended into farce. Belle Vue announced they would drop into the Premier League before realising they could not field a competitive team at the lower level.
They swapped places with King's Lynn, who then decided they could not afford to stay in the top flight and

dropped down. Swindon, the Elite League dub which insisted on pay controls at the start of the winter before realising their riders would not agree to the new rates, then declared their intention either to step into the Premier League or to pull out of speedway. Finally, King's Lynn, who had un-earthed further investment that included a deal to bring in Tony Rickardsson, the world champion, agreed to re-turn to the Elite League and

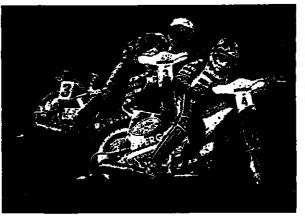
replace Swindon. There was, at least, some good news for the Premier League with the rebirth of Workington after an 11-year absence and, at the very last minute. Berwick were rescued from apparent closure. Focure lists were released just days before the start of

the campaign — which began with a challenge match at the Smallmead Stadium be tween Reading and Newport last night - and team strength — and team strength controls forced clubs to sideline several top-class riders, notably Billy Hamill, the world champion of three years ago.

Van Straaten, however, enters his first season in optimistic mood, believing the knock-on effect of change is a necessary evil. "It has been a long, hard winter but when we come to the starting tapes we will have all of last year's tracks and one extra one because Workington opened," he said.

"I'm excited about what is ahead. We have evenly matched teams and it would take a brave man to predict the winners of this year's leagues. There is uncertainty again, which is something we missed last year when evetyone had their money on lpswich before the season start-

The reduced strength of the Elite League has enabled Hull and Peterborough to step up from the Premier. both under new promotions. and the title race is likely to be close as there is little between any of the ten teams.



Rickardsson, the world champion, to ride for King's Lynn

HEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

Today's hand comes from the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, one of the more popular events in the American bridge calendar. This is a teams event with matchpointed pairs scoring. All you have to do is score better than your opponents at the other table: that could be just 20 points better or 2,000 - it's all the same thing. It makes for some very exciting bidding and play but is hard on the nerves.

Game all

▲ A 1097

	♦ KQ4 ♥ 63 ♦ 72 ♣ J 108643	→ 5863 → 52 N W E S → 65 ♥ 87 ◇ AKQ109 → AK97	4 J832 ♥ KQJ952 ♦ 54 4 Q	ı
S	w	N	E	
	Pass	Pass	2H(weak)
3 D	Pass	3 H	Pass	,
4 C	Pass	4 D	Pass	
5 D	All Pa		•	

Contract: Five Diamonds by South. Lead: six of hearts.

North would have done better to bid Three No-Trumps over his partner's overcall but his actual choice led to a respectable contract

Superficially, the contract does not seem interesting. since eleven tricks are lay-down when trumps split 2-2, but declarer does not know that, remember.

Suppose you win the ace of hearts at trick one. If you draw two rounds of trumps you are fine if they are 2-2, but suppose they are 3-1. You cash your top clubs and ruff a club in the dummy but you can't get back to your hand to take a second club ruff without letting the opponent in to draw a third trump. On the other hand, if you take a

club ruff before drawing trumps you may lose a club

since even if the defence take a heart ruff you can discard a spade on the ace of hearts eventually. When East takes the first trick and plays a second heart, you can win and draw two rounds of trumps. Once trumps are 2-2 you can claim eleven tricks but, even if trumps do not split, your duck of the first heart has given you communications back to your hand via a heart ruff to arrange the sec-

WORD-WATCHING

HAWKSHAW a. A falcon b. A dead leaf c. A detective

c. A woolly

The solution to your prob-lem is very simple: duck the first heart - there is no dan-ger even if hearts are 7-1;

ond club ruff.

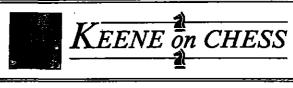
By Philip Howard NOTAPHILY

MOUFFLON a. A muffet b. A Muppet

a. A colt b. Collecting bank notes c. Celeb-worship HELIODOR

a. A sun spot b. A naturist c. Golden bervi

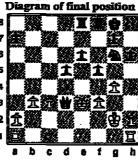
Answers on page 50



BY RAYMOND KEENE CHES\$ CORRESPONDENT

Cambridge victories

Today I conclude coverage of the annual Varsity match be-tween Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Oxford won no games and lost three. The game which won the brilliancy prize was published here yesterday. Today I give the re-maining two Cambridge wins. White Benjamin Savage Black: James Vigus Varsity Match 1999 Torre Attack



White: Alfred Nathan Black: Emily Howard Varsity Match 1999 Caro-Kann Defence

d4 e5 Nc3 Bd3 Qxd3 Ngs2 0-0 a3 Bxd3 e6 Qb6 Qxd3 Qxd3 Ne7 Nf5 Nd7 Be7

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column

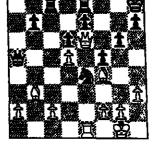
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

In yesterday's report it should have been stated that James Vigus is from Clare College.

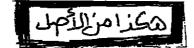
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is

from the game Geller - Knop-pert, Berlin 1991. It is always a good idea to be aware of all the features of a position even when there are distractions. Here White has a promising attack against the black king, but it was the unguarded black queen that proved decisive. How did White continue? Solution on page 50



Cer when Celtic won the Europe that and first and foremost in an Cup but does not have a against Dunfermline at East my mind is the Arsenal game. romantic notion of the future. End Park last month. McAllister: on the mend Scotland is a fortnight away."



Hoping fo

Chris McGrath meets a trainer banking on home advantage





Istabrao, left, brushed aside French Holly, right, with apparent ease at Leopardstown but Murphy is hopeful the tables will be turned this afternoon

Istabraq tests Murphy's Law

IF A man begins with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties. Punters would do well to remember Francis Bacon's counsel at the Cheltenham Festival, where the credulous seldom finish in credit especially in view of the fact that they start with apparently the biggest certainty of the Few National Hunt stars of

recent years have conveyed the same swagger as Istabraq, whose defence of the Smurfit Champion Hurdle today has appeared impregnable since he flaunted his brilliance over French Holly at Leopardstown in January. He is quoted as low as 2-1 on to justify "Festi-val banker" status for the third year running. Yesterday, however, the trainer of French Holly sought to embolden those who reach their certainties by the harder road.

Ferdy Murphy is not a trainer who puffs his hopes with vanity or delusion. His resuval record (ne can boast three winners at the past three Festivals from just Ireland and each time has run

Cheltenham

Festival

hard bedrock to the Irish wits that afford him such ease of manner. On that same foundation he has built the earnest be-lief that French Holly — humiliated in Dublin, where Charlie Swan produced Istabraq on the bridle while grinning at the grandstand — can gain his revenge on home soil.

Indeed, the exiled Irishman believes that his adopted base in Yorkshire gives him a very "He has run three times in

below our expectations," he said. "Each time he has come hack a little dead in himself. He spends almost all his time turned out and it wouldn't have been ideal for him to spend 24 hours stuck in a

The giant French Holly certainly endured a tiring journey. Originally due to be flown to Ireland, he was stranded by fog and sent back to Middleham; halfway through his supper he was scrambled back into the horsebox to make a dash for a lastminute vacancy on the ferry. At his best, French Holly

can maintain a furious gallop and still find extra off the bridle. In Ireland, his response to Istabraq's accelera-tion seemed tame compared with the ravenous final halfmile he produced in, say, the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton or in the Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle at the Festival last year.

Murphy is sanguine. "I said to Adrian [Maguire] that he a slap to see how much was in make sure they had to train

EXPERTS' VIEW

the tank. We didn't want to leave everything behind in Ire-land. If Istabraq went by easi-ly, he wasn't to have a hard time. Everything we've planned for is tomorrow.

"The whole idea of going over there was to make sure Istabraq had a race before Cheltenham. My lad has a fantastic temperament and the squeeze at the second last and might boil over. So we had to him properly, not just fiddle around with him as they could before Leopardstown last year. They more or less left him alone then, but we wanted to make sure they needed him at 90 per cent rather than 75."

Andrew Thornton, absent

then through injury, is back in

the saddle today and presumably he will try to draw the favourite's sting from the top of the hill. "Both horses are obviously effective at Cheltenham but French Holly will prefer it to Leopardstown," Murphy said. "He's fresh and well - as well as he was before Cheltenham last year." On that occasion French Holly trounced his fellow novices. True, he has dropped in distance but has already shown his flair over two miles

With the dead ground expected to bleed the stamina on the final climb to the line, this time French Holly will surely give Istabraq something more closely resembling a run for reason enough to begin the Festival with doubts.

round the sharp, flat course at

Kempton.

THE BIG RACE FIELD

3.15

SMURFIT CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY (Grede L.£138,000: 2m 110yd) (14 runners) Owner: P Richardson Record: 3 wins from 13 starts, prize-money £38,230 Running on in sidth when brought down at the finel flight in lest year's rece. His efforts this season seem to confirm he would prefer a much stiffer test of stamina. BELLATOR 17 (D.G.S) Miss V Williams 8-12-0 ...

1111-4F2 BLOWING WIND 17 (B.BF.C.D.G.S) M Pipe 6-12-0 _____R Dumwoody 136 Owner: P Deal 4 wins from 18 starts, prize-money £69,537
Landed some big bets when winning the County Hurdle here 12 months ago. Has not progressed as anticipated though and has been rejected by stable juckey forly McCoy. CITY HALL 31 (V,D,G,S) Mrs Y Ward 5-12-0 ...

Owner: Mrs R Key and Mrs V Ward 2 wins from 9 starts, prize-money £50,139
Pront-running grey who found only Upgrade too strong in the Triumph Hurdie last year and ran a cracker in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury a month ago. Each-way claims. Owner: K Flood 6 wice from 14 starts, prize-money £130,485
The top novice lest season and has progressed again. Flattered to finish within a length

of Istabrec at Leoperdstown in Januray but mey again give him most to do. GREY SHOT 19 (CD.G.S) | Balding 7-12-0 ... 5 wins from 8 starts, prize-money £83,483 Owner: it incomes Sweet stayer on the Flat. Has not always looked a natural over timber but he won over course and distance in December and will be suited by the drying ground.

Owner: J P McManus

14 wirs from 16 starts, £485,185
Emphatic winner last year and has looked even better this season. Will be the shock
of the meeting if this outstanding champion fails to successfully defend his title. MIDNIGHT LEGEND 19 (D.F.G.S) D Nicholson 8-12-0 _____ A Dobble 119 Owner: Mrs H Clarke 4 wirs from 8 runs, prize-money £68,051.
Former stallion who has run with credit this season. Could not peg back Grey Shot at

PSTABRAQ 51 (CD.F.G.S) A P O'Brien (Ire) 7-12-0

Mincanton last time though and that suggests he will be a supporting player. MISTER MOROSE 80 (D.G.S) N Twiston-Devices 9-12-0 _____C Liewellyn 145
Owner: Mrs J Mould 5 wins from 12 starts, prize-money £44,841.
Reverts to hurdles after an unsuccessful spell over fences – something Beach Road did when winning 1989. Goes well fresh so do not be put off by his lengthy absence.

5 wins from 11 starts, £62,672 Finished a close third in the Triumph Hurdle last year and has trained on this campalign Twice put firmly in his place by istabrad, however, and would prefer softer ground.

THEATREWORLD 24 (BF.D.S) A P O'Brien (Ire) 7-12-0...... 6 wins from 27 starts, prize-money £172,535 tunner-up for the past two years. Overhauled more positively ridden opponents late on lest year and similar tactics may not reap such a reward this time. TTUTCHEV 31 (BF.CD,G.S) D Nicholson 642-0...

Owner: Liens Poker Partnership 4 wins from 13 starts, prize-money £38,329
Travels strongly in his races but found little off the bridle when soundly besten at bury last month. Needs things to go all his own way and easily pa Owner: M Archer and Mrs J Broadhusst 4 wins from 12 starts, £58,017 Made virtually all to win the Triumph Hurdle last year. Those exertions seem to have

ZAFARABAD 51 (C.D.G.S) D Nicholson 5-12-0... 5 wins from 9 starts, prize money £64,657 No match for Istabrag or French Holly at Leopardstown last month and no obvious on why he will turn the tables. Would be better served by a longer distance. LADY CRICKET 22 (8-G.S) M Pipe 5-11-9

6 wins from 13 starts, prize-money £108,179 Main hope of champion pair Pipe and McCoy. Ex-french made looked an exciting prospect when winning on her British debut but was less convincing in a muddling race latest. BETTING: Corel: 1-2 Istabrac, 5-1 French Holly, 12-1 Theatreworld, 16-1 Lady Cricket, 25-1 Grey Shot, 28-1 Blowing Wind. nadic, 33-1 Bellator, City Hell, 40-1 Michight Legend, Thutchev, Zafarabad, 66-1 Mister Morces, Upgrade.

Ladbrokes: 1-2 Istabraq, 9-2 French Holly, 10-1 Theatreworld, 18-1 Lady Cricket, 20-1 Blowing Wind, 33-1 Grey Shot, Nomadic, 40-1 Bellator, City Hell, Zafarabed, 50-1 Midnight Legend, Tiutchev, 66-1 Mister Morose, Upgrade. Tota: 1-2 Istabraq, 9-2 French Holly, 12-1 Theatreworld, 16-1 Lady Cricket, 25-1 Grey Shot, 33-1 Blowing Wind, City Hall, Zafarabad, 40-1 Nomedic, Tiutchev, 50-1 Midnight Legend, Mister Morose, 66-1 Bellator, Upgrade. William Hilt: 1-2 Istabraq, 9-2 French Holly, 14-1 Theatreworld, 16-1 Lady Cricket, 25-1 Biowing Wind, 33-1 Bellator, City Hall, Grey Shot, Trutchev, Zafarabad, 40-1 Midnight Legend, Nomadic, 66-1 Upgrade, 100-1 Mister Morose. 1998: ISTABRAQ 6-12-0 C F Swan (3-1 fav) A P O'Brien (ire) 18 ran

Dobbin faces fitness test

TONY DOBBIN has an appointment with the doctor at Cheltenham today before learning if he will be passed fit to ride Midnight Legend in the Champion Hurdle after a fall at Taunton yesterday.

Dobbin was unseated from Flahive's First at the third Challenge Cup Handicap Hurdle and appeared to be

kicked by another runner, has a bruised knee where he Missed The Boat, as he lay on was kicked and will have to the ground. The course doctor, Jeremy

Budd, ruled Dobbin out of action for the remainder of the afternoon and made a red entry in his medical book. which means that the rider

doctor today.

see the doctor at Cheltenham before he can ride."

Debbin, however, is optimistic. He said: "My knee is sore but it's been iced and I'm hopeful there will be no prob-

ride The Butterwick Kid in Budd said: "Tony Dobbin the Stakis Casinos Final.

Bosuns Mate can set sail in finale

2.00: Traditionally a good race for the Irish, who have won four of the past eight runnings. They again mount a strong challenge, with Cardinal Hill and Joe Mac heading the betting. Cardi-nal Hill found Alexander Banquet just too strong at Fairyhouse last time, where he spoilt his chance with some sloppy jumping. Joe Mac failed to last home up the hill in the bumper at the Festival last year and his stamina will again be tested to the full. Hors La Loi III, trained by François Doumen for his three wins, has now joined Martin Pipe and is open to improvement, but may prefer softer ground. THE FLY was close to top class on the Flat, finishing fifth in the Derby and third in the St Leger. He looked a natural for the winter game when jumping fluently on his debut at Newbury, and can make his speed count here.

2.35: A fierce early pace is assured here, with Nipper Reed, Aghawadda Gold, Wynyard Knight and Gris D'Estruval all at their best when making the running. That should set the race up for a strong finisher, and preference is for TRESOR DE MAL He was beaten a head by Flagship Uberalles in a match at Warwick last time, and is now 4lb worse off, but will be better suited by the way this is run and can reverse the form. Cockney Lad, a useful hurdler, could run well at a big price.

3.15: Istabraq sauntered home by 12 lengths from his stablemate, Theatreworld a year ago. and anyone who saw his demoli-tion of FRENCH HOLLY at Leopardstown in January will find it hard to believe that the champion can be beaten. However, a combination of a bad journey to Ireland and having to make the running counted against French Holly that day. He should have no such problems here with City Hall, Grey Shot and Upgrade likely to force the early pace, and French Holly can floor the favourite. Lady Cricket (unsuited by small field when unimpressive at Fontwell last time) and Tiutchev

3.55: Step On Eyre is unbeaten stiffest task. Kadou woody on board, he rates a good bet at around 25-1.

4.30: Time For A Run has fin-ished second and third respectively in the past two renewals of this race, and has been given some respite by the handicap-per. Clinton has won two weak novice chases at Hereford and Warwick and faces a jump in class here, while Linden's Lotto has looked better than ever this season but has the weight to match. Wandering Light won over four miles at the Festival last season, and needed the run when third to Ramallah at Towcester. He will go well, but more appeal. Fourth in the Wil-liam Hill National Hunt Chase a year ago, he is now a stone lower in the weights and has recently joined the Pipe stable.

any value, and preference is for BOSUNS MATE. Beaten over he has scope to be better still.

(ruined chance by going wide around bends when favourite for Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury) look best of the outsiders.

in three starts on soft ground this term, but this represents his suffered his only defeat this season when trying to give 191b to the useful Majadou, but his tendency to make the odd mistake may cost him dear in this compaweight in this last year and will go well if the ground dries out. NAHTHEN LAD has a good record at Cheltenham (two wins and a third from four starts), and can be forgiven his last run when pulled up at Sandown as he returned with a nasal discharge. With Richard Dun-

TELL THE NIPPER makes

5.05: Galant Moss has been heavily backed in recent days and is open to improvement now However, he is unlikely to offer an inadequate trip at Wincanton last time, he has solid claims judged on his earlier successes here and at Newbury. Moreover.

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 The Fly 2.35 Tresor De Mai 3.15 French Holly

4.30 Tell The Nipper 5.05 BOSUNS MATE (nap) Timekeeper's top rating: 2.35 AGHAWADDA GOLD.

3.55 Nahthen Lad

Our Irish correspondent: 2.00 Cardinal Hill. 2.35 His Song. 3.15 Istabraq. 4.30 Time For A Run. 5.05 Shannon Gale.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Hail 12-0 B West (7) 88 Racecard number Six-figure form (F--felt.

CO-course and distance winner 6F-beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F-firm, good to firm, hard G-good S-scit, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets Transic, Age and weight. Rider plus any attowence. Timekeep-er's speed racing rappication furnion swingure form (final final f

2.00 CITROEN SUPREME MOVICES HURDLE (Grade L £45,960: 2m 110 yd) (20 runners)

101 12-1411 ALL GONG 46 (C.D.G.S) (A Spealman) N Handerson 5-11-8 ... N A Pitzgerald 84 (Witte, cracks and white chiped cap)
102 211 ARCTIC FAMCY 27 (S) (Cool Costomers) J 6 Smyte-Ostourne 6-11-6 W Marston 100 (Yellow, brack houp, chevrons on sierves, houped cap)

12-1121 COLONEL YEAGER 30 (D.S) (Capt C Rysn) M Lynch (RE) 5-11-8 R DIDENKODY —
(Carl grean, Cart grean cap, light green star)
30-4006 COPPER SHELL 11 (Gallagher Equina Ltd) Mrs L Jenest 5-11-6 — _____ 8 Powell (82 (Emerald green and white stripes, emerald green sterves, write armiets, crange cap)
1-12142 HOR RIVADER 20 (CD.F.S) (D Aliport) C Marra 7-11-8 _______ J Magee 118 (Red, black cheveres, white science, black armiets, white cap)
12-11 JOE MAC 79 (D.S) (McManus) C Rocke (RE) 5-11-8 ______ C C D'Dwyer —
(Precedit naves and trained boronet, white cap) 3-21132 PERFETT VEHIC 10 (65-5) (Marian Partinstring) in Heartesson 6-11-8, J. R. Karanagir (Orange), black disc, halved sleeves, black cap) P-1011 RICARDO 10 (D.S) (P Whelan & E Station) Mrs J Planen 5-11-8 ... W WEigneson 122

The first and yellow (haved), white sleaves, red amonts, black copy)

PP SAM SURU 94 (B) (Said Jesny) C Voo Der Reche (6ER) 5-11-6 ____life M Keller ____.

(Yellow, white clampact, white claeves, yellow cap, white diamonat)

SILENCE REGISTS 137F (Rosch Fouls Lid) P Nicholfs 5-11-8 ______l Tezzed ___.

(Red, white cross belts, hoped sleaves and size on cap)

1 THE FLY 31 (D,G) (Hon Mrs.) Corbert 8. If Harcon) B Hits 5-11-8 ____ J Osborne 88.

(Royal blue, salver singed sleaves, blue and red hopege (ap)) WITHER OR WHICH 31 (D.S) (R Sincials) W P Mullier: (IRE) 8-11-6 __R Walsh (Emerald green, royal blue stances, omerald green cap, white star)

(Plate, dark blue stars, plate sleeves) BETTRIC: 9-4 Cardical Hill. 7-2 July Mac. 5-1 The Fig. 13-2 Hors La Loi III. 8-1 Colonel Veolger, 12-1 Austabet, 14-1 Wilher Or Which, 16-1 All Goog, 25-1 Hoft Imader, Promised Profile, Recents, 13-1 Archi Farry, Brewn Lad. Perfect Venue, Brill John Prince, Silence Reigns, 50-1 Carlys Owest, Copper Shell, 100-1 Treacure Checl. 200-1 San San La.

1998: FRENCH SALLERSKA 5-11-3 G Bradley (10-1) P First (FE) 30 car.

2.35 GUINNESS ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY CHASE (Grade t: £57,300: 2m) (14 runners)

(Red and white states, dark blue states, white state and state on cap.)
212 1-11121 GINES D'ESTRUMAL 10 (G.S.) (D. Jelesson) M. Pipe 5-11-0 A. P. MisCoy 136
(Royal blue, emerald general states, white cap, emerald gene spots)
213 12-1512 TRESOR DE MAL 24 (B.SF.D.G.S.) (J. Moran) M. Pipe 5-11-0 — R. Duzwoody 129 (Parple, yellow chemon, diatodo on sierves)

-03F111 MAKCOUNUI 17 (8.5) (R Waley-Coben) II Henderson 5-10-9 ___
(Brown, crange sierves, quartered cap)

BETTING: 4-1 His Song. 9-2 Gris ("Estrual. 11-2 Aghamadda Gold, Mateura)), 8-1 Migner Reed, W Kraget, Tresor De Mai, 10-1 Fagchip Uberalles, 16-1 Cockeey Lad, 25-1 Advocat, 28-1 others. 1998: CHAMPLEVE 5-11-0 A P McCoy (13-2) M Pipe 18 ran.

3.15 SMURFIT CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY [SHOWCASE RACE] (Grade I: £138,000: 2m 110yd) (14 runners) SEE ABOVE FOR CARD AND COLOURS

3.55 WILLIAM HELL NATIONAL HUNT CHASE

(HANDICAP) (£38,600: 3m 1f)(18 runners)

(Pallow, prove dax, strand steems, hooped cap)
408 122-111 STEP ON EYES 31 (D.C.S.) (Duthess of Westkinster) (F Day 9-10-11 .R. Johnson 157
(Vallow, surce black but and cap with gold stassel)
409 6U4-52P NAMTHEN LAD 25 (B.CD.C.S.) (J. Stam) Mrs. J. Pitrean 10-10-10 _R. Durnwoody 180 (White, black stars, white steems, black cap)
410 S1-1116 CALLING WILD 52 (8F.D.B.S) (Heat, & Ct. List) P. Nicipils, 9-10-10 _____) Taxanti 1952 411 2/11415 SAKTA CONCERTO 24 (D.S) (J Con) L Lungo 10-10-8

(Pink, dark triage) 415 3255/16 BETTY'S BOY 66 (F.G.S) (T Bendeld & W Brown) K Bailey 18-10-2 JK Williamson 158 (Narrou, yellow artists, quarient cap)
417 F-7/110 SLAND CHEF 17 (SF.D.S.S) (5 Disper) P Reservoord 10-10-1 ______ B Skerey 151
(Orly, reason boop, resources prey arreless, questred cap)
418 12U1331 SHORE PARTY 36 (5) (Mr.J. Moody N Twicken Davies 7-110-] ___ Goldstein (3) 142
(Extend green, with stars, emerald green cap, white star)

Long bandscap: Shore Party 9-1 ERTTMG: 7-2 Step On Fee, 7-1 Kadou Norsensk, Island Chief, 10-1 Handom Harvest, Calling Weld, 12-1 Rahben Lad, Santa Commin. King Lember, 14-1 Ealogy, 16-1 Liegusthot Missile, Macgaorge, Terramech, Earthmorer, Jahlib, Beth's Boy, 20-1 Five Reyne, 25-1 Show Party, 50-1 Door Synoons. 1992: UNGUIDED MISSILE 10-11-10 P Carbony (10-1) G Richards 13 rae.

4.30 FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CUP HANDICAP CHASE. (AMATEUR RIDERS) (£22,500; 3m 1f) (24 runners)

5.05 STAKIS CASINOS FINAL (HANDICAP HURDLE) (£28,950: 3m 2f) (24 runners)

28,950: 3m 2) (24 THEFERS)

1 ASP31: PROBABER 17 (20,6.5) (States Throated Fasteres) D Michaem 9-12-0. R Thorates 132 2472-P TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 9-11-0. R Thorates 132 2472-P TORSOV 45 (9 P Green) M Plan 9-11-0. R Throates 1458-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 9-11-0. R Throates 1458-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 9-11-0. R Throates 1458-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 9-10-0. R Throates 1458-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 9-10-0. R Throates 1458-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 9-10-0. R Throates 1458-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1458-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1459-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1479-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P Green) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1470-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1470-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1470-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1470-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1470-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1470-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1470-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1470-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1470-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1570-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1570-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1570-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Throates 1570-1471 (TORSOV 46 (9 P HODE) M Plan 14-0. R Th BETTING: 4-1 Getert Moss, 8-1 Moss, Mossors, Three Farthings, Shannon Gale, 10-1 Flying Guerter, Geo su, 12-1 Bosses, Mate, Metody Maid, The Buttervick Kid, 14-7 others. 1998: UNSBEKABLE BOREH 9-10-12 A P McCoy (5-2 lay) M Pipe 24 ran

TRAINERS Rous 25.3 20.6 19.8 15.9 15.4 14.9

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RACING: SIMPSON THE SURVIVOR BANKS ON NIPPER REED GIVING HIM ANOTHER LIFELINE

Hoping for a Festival fairytale

n this of all racing weeks, reality is blurred by dreams and desires. For one man, though, the significance of the opening day at Cheltenham can scarcely be exaggerated. If ever a horse was running for his trainer's life, or at least his livelihood, it is Nipper Reed this afternoon.

Notoriety has grown around this blameless horse, named after the detective who arrested the Kray twins and owned by a man in custody on drug charges. Bizarrely, Nipper Reed's performance in the Guinness Arkle Chase now offers a final lifeline for the plagued and persecuted career of Rod

The plight of Graham Piper, who not only owns Nipper Reed but most of Simpson's other horses and his yard in Wendover, is the latest misfortune to befall the most colourfully nomadic member of the training profession. Typically, Simpson remains determined it will not be the one that brings him down

"I have had to move yards eight times," Simpson said. "Every time, the reason is different but this one was the biggest shock. The setbacks just hurt more as you get older. You are not so young and vibrant. It gets harder to shake down the old feathers and start

Simpson talked as he gazed out over Russell Farm, where the promise of contentment and security has exploded into shreds of uncertainty. His indomitably zany humour continues to shine through a dilemma that would leave others sour and embittered. "I'm just deciding whether I should offer to plough the potato fields down the road By Alan Lee, racing correspondent

Training

is the

only thing

people

believe I

can do

or take in some washing for the neighbours," he said. "I'll do anything,

The flippancy is gallantly false, for this time the eviction of Simpson is a grave matter in which he is entirely the injured innocent. Piper, twice remanded in custody by Crawley magistrates and facing another court appearance on March 31, has had his property put into receivership. That includes the farm and all his 30 horses

and it means Simpson is once more homeless and obless, if not quite horse-

"I've still got a few horses for owners who have been good to me over the years, probably felt sorry for me really," he said. "Even if I only end up with a dozen or so, I want to carry on somewhere else because it seems to be the only thing people believe I can do.

Every time I've lost a yard I have had to come back into training because I

can't get another job. In the past few weeks. I've been applying for every racing job that has come up but no-one wants me. I've also seen three potential yards — two where the rents are ridiculous and one that has no accommodation.

"I feel most sorry for the staff here. We'd got into some good routines and it's a young crew - I'm very much the granddaddy. Hopefully, I'll be able to take two or three of them wherever I go, but it will be a survival thing for a while." Simpson, though, is well used

to that. He will not be taking Nipper Reed with him, for he is among the horses destined for dispersal at Doncaster Sales on March 29. But if jumping's theatre of dreams has one romantic result in its gift this week, look no further. He will be ridden today by Adrian Maguire, for whom the past-

four Cheltenham Festivals have been a wretched saga of absence, grief and pain and for whom the racing public reserve a special affection. Add the popularity of the enduring Simpson and there is potential for lumps in the most stoical of , throats.

Simpson insists there is nothing fanciful in the idea and, for all the Irish confidence in the favourite. His Song, lines of form support his confidence. Nipper Reed won his first two races over fences - at

Utioxeter and Newbury - and then, raised in class against seasoned twomilers in the Mitsubishi Shogun Game Spirit Chase at Newbury last month, he was beaten by less than the ground he lost when being left at the start - an episode, incidentally, appropriate to the lucklessness of his 53-year-old

"The horse is in awesome form now," Simpson said. "I had finished with him after work last Tuesday.

because he's never wanted to be hassled. He loves to be fresh and we are going there with all the optimism you must have for a runner at Cheltenham. And I don't worry about

the ground, either. He'll be fine on it." Simpson breaks off continually from the more earnest areas of conversation to tell ridiculous jokes, to inform me he hopes to sing a song about Nipper Reed on the Cheltenham public address and to regale me with stories of his exploits as a football referee. "I got the yellow card out to a bloke yesterday and he told me he had backed my horse. You won I book me

now, will you, he said. I did, though." There have been many dates with destiny in Simpson's turbulent life but none quite like today. Quite simply, his first Festival winner would attract the acclaim and publicity to save his

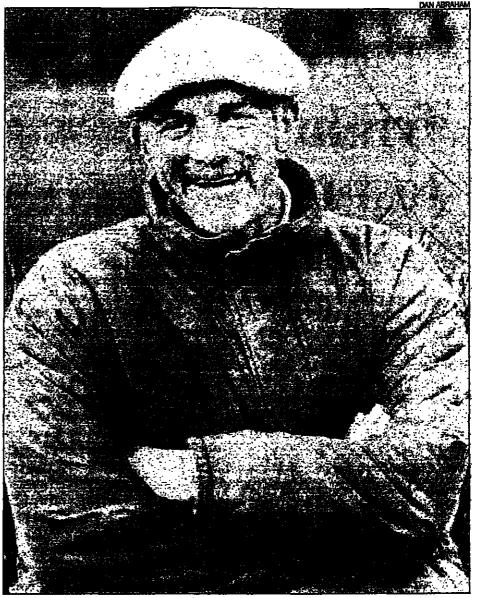
Defeat is as unthinkable as the consequences. "I have no intention of lying down and giving up, though," he said defiantly. "I can't. Even at my age, I'm too hyperactive."



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The Afternoon Line (C4, 1.00pm); The Cheltenham Festival (C4, 1.30pm); The Cheltenham Festival (Highlights) (C4, 11.40pm) THE TIMES CHELTENHAM HOTLINES

09064 700547 — Racecall commentary *calls cost 60p per minute



Simpson has retained his sense of humour despite having to move yards eight times

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY SEDGEFIELD ps, 6 race card 1st race 30.0% TV: none Long distance travellers: Farrah's Derling (3.35), Carnden Fellow (5.20), CHELTERIAN 1st race: Winning favourities 40.3% Long distance travellers: Bairte Concerto (3.55), Celtic Giant (4.30), 272 miles 1st race: 1.45 Winding favourities: 33.5% TV: none Long distance traveller: Sir Walter (2.50), 223 miles

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1/2 Istabraq

9/2 French Holly

18/1 Theatreworld

18/1 Lady Cricket

20/1 Blowing Wind

33/1 Grey Shot

40/1 Belizior

40/1 City Hall

66/1 Mister Morose

and provide the

Obst. The

ROB WRIGHT 2.25 Corbieu. 3.00 Heavy Hustler. 3.35 Cathedral Belle. 4.15 River Unshion. 4.50 Makin' Doo. 5.20 Heimsley Flier. Carl Evans: 4.50 Makin' Doo GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

2.25 MONKEY PUZZLE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (JOHN WADE QUALIFIER) (£1.564; 3m 3f 110yd) (13 numers)

(2.1.304: 3ft) 3f 11090) (13 10010815)

1 BSSS TOPOTHENORTH-RACING 15 (C.F.G.S.) P Beaumont 9-12-0
2 OGO2 KAKASHDA 11 J Howard Johnson 8-11-11 ... L Douber (7)
3 OSSU D'ARBLAY STREET 11 88,CD.G.S.) W Kann 10-11-10 B Handing
4 P404 DOCHMASTIER 8 (G.S.) Miss K Melligno 8-11-9 ... R Guest
5 28PG SAUCY MAN 30 (C.F.S.) P Has P -71-8 ... J Mondroft (7)
6 CSDS MR CHRISTIE 8 (G.S.) Miss K Melligno 8-11-9 ... J Mondroft (7)
7 OKSU GERMAN LISEBOD 27 (P.D. Lamb 9-11-3 ... J Bunko
8 3-28 CORRELEI BO (G.S.) Stall 9-11-0 ... K Johnson
9 4-30P AMELIS ARWAYS ST. J Moston 6-10-13 ... C Rother (7)
9 0FSD WILLIAM OF ORAMINES 8 (S.J.) Judencon 7-10-13 A S Smith 1
10 0FSD WILLIAM OF ORAMINES 8 (S.J.) Judencon 7-10-13 A S Smith 1
10 0FSD WILLIAM OF ORAMINES 8 (S.J.) Judencon 7-10-13 A S Smith 1
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10 0FSD WILLIAM OF ORAMINES 8 (S.J.) Judencon 7-10-13 A S Smith 1
11 00FS ORAMINES 9 (S.J.) M Medianeson 5-10-0 ... M Histophism (S.) SWINNE 13 -046 800AM VICEROY 8 J Tuner 6-10-1 ... M Histophism (S.) 42 Construction (S.G.) (Target S. Target 6-11 Mellignos) (S. M.) 7-2 Toposhenordusacing, 9-2 D'Arbiay Saeet, 5-1 Kalashda, Di Christie, Angus Airusays, 12-1 George Leoend, 14-1 others.

3.00 TOTE COURSE TO COURSE NOVICES CHASE

1 FSP2 PERVY NUSTLER 28 (CD.F.S.) J Howard Advance 8-11-9
C McCommet: (5) 1888
2 PSP3 CHARAMSE MOSS 15 (6) D M Foreste 8-11-2 J Supple
3 7385 SHAPEROR'S MARCE 28 N Macon 8-11-2 MS P Robert 9
4 0500 RNUP STILLIFE 28 (6) Ms J Brown 8-11-2 MS P Robert 9
5 985 JORD ROLLAN F (0.F.S.) J Make 8-11-2 — A S Smith 65
6 3-08 MS BRUND 11 M Barnes 6-11-2 — A S Smith 65
7 ANY PROBE STME FSS (6-5) J Howard Johnson 18-11-2 D Parker —
8 (SPD DURMALL CROSSET) 17 F Caten 14-11-2 ... JAY O Fagan 56 6-6 Heavy thesiter, 3-1 Charming Moss, 4-1 Franc Statellies, 7-1 Engence's Magic, Lond Rolline, 20-1 Mr Brunto, 33-1 Prinne Style, 100-1 Colonia Cresseti

3.35 ALPHAMERIC BED ONION MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,373: 2m 5f 110yd) (14)

1 1311 CATHEIRAL BELLE 47 (CD.F.S) Mis M Rowely 5-12-2 6 Lee
2 03-P CELAYELL 14 5 M Moore 6-10-12 ... 1 Hong (7) ... 3 03-0 CHANTILLY ROSE 89 Miss R Burels 7-10-12 ... A S Smith 3 P PCLABRENN KARE 17 J Haynes 7-10-12 ... A S Smith 3 P PCLABRENN KARE 17 J Haynes 7-10-12 ... S Topks 57 7 5305 FARRANTS DARIJES 89 P Ecisis 5-10-12 ... D Byrne 67 7 5505 FARRANTS DARIJES 89 P Ecisis 5-10-12 ... D Byrne 67 7 5505 FARRANTS DARIJES 89 P Ecisis 5-10-12 ... J Byrne 67 8-398 SLIBLE PORT 5 (8) D Lumb 8-10-12 ... J Byrne 67 8-398 SLIBLE PORT 5 (8) D Lumb 8-10-12 ... J Byrne 67 8-398 SLIBLE PORT 5 (8) D Lumb 8-10-12 ... J Byrne 67 8-398 SLIBLE PORT 5 (8) D Lumb 8-10-12 ... J Byrne 67 8-398 SLIBLE PORT 5 (8) D Lumb 8-10-12 ... J Byrne 67 8-398 SLIBLE PORT 5 (8) D Lumb 8-10-12 ... J Byrne 67 8-10-12 ... J Byrn

2-5 Cathedral Belle, 13-2 Farrah's Darlieg, 8-1 Double Buck, 14-1 Vronside Prin-cess, 20-1 Heavedy Thought. 25-1 Ceepyelf, Ella Falls, 33-1 others.

4.15 ALPHAMERIC BET CAPTURE SYSTEMS **HANDICAP CHASE (£4,250: 2m 5f) (8)**

1 P44P EASEY JUNES 75 (F.S.S) S Kettlewell 11-11-12 . B Handing 79
2 UC34 RDYAL MOUNTEROWNE 38 (0.5.5) Mas M Rowland 11-11-11
3 -3P4 BACK BAR 24 (6.5) D McCain 11-11-11 ... A G Corrie (5) 82
4 2122 RIVER LINSHION 45 (20.F.6.5) J Houard Johnson 9-11-10 5 3134 NOSAM 18 (CD.F.B.5) N Masson 9-11-3 Parter Exem 5 3134 NOSAM 18 (CD.F.B.5) N Masson 9-11-3 R Gunst 116 6 P-PS MR ROBE 20 (F.B.5) M Soversky (2-10-5 M H Maughton 5) 87 7 PDI2 ANOTHER RED 25 (CD.F.5) W Rem 26-10-0 W Dowler 5) 58 8 POSP COPPERHURST 14 (E.S.) W Kemp 8-10-0 ... L Cooper (7) 114 2-1 River Unchion, 7-2 Royal Magniprovens. 9-2 Nosam, 7-1 Another Red, 8-1 Eastly Joker, 12-1 Back Bit. Mr Finding, 16-1 Cooperfurst.

4.50 TOTE TRIO HUNTERS CHASE (£1,277; 3m 3f) (14)

3-1 Lielphen, 4-1 Maten' Doc. 9-2 Trade Depute, 5-1 Hiltonstown Lass, 7-1 Dromore Dram, 8-1 Polynch, 10-1 Fiscal Policy, 16-1 others. 5.20 TOTE PLACEPOT HOVICES HANDICAP

HURDLE (£2,425: 2m 1f) (13) 1 0015 MILITASARRIF 8 (8F.CD.F.G) J Dodds 5-12-0. S Mehruse (7)
2 274 FARCEUR DU MESNIL 28 K. Morgan 6-11-8. ... A S Schaft
3 2844 MANUS 28 (8F.F.) 8 Dileson 8-11-7. ... L COOper (7)
4 6794 MENUS 28 (8F.F.) 8 Dileson 8-11-7. ... L COOper (7)
5 2412 ACCIVISTAN 17 (7) M Hammond 4-11-4. ... N Horrosis (5)
6 AVS. MARANS 28 D Smith 9-11-3. ... B Brading 35
7 1511 ORBIL JAD 773 COLF.(9) Mass K. Malligan 6-11-1 B. Grales (5)
8 5403 THE LAMBTON WORM 14-N Bycolb 5-10-13 G Righton 6-18
9 6504 COME AND RIN 75 M W Example 5-10-13 G MicCommack (5)
9 6504 COME AND RIN 75 M W Example 5-10-13 G MicCommack (5)
10 6200 PAMOURAS LORD 80 J Wishmond 5-10-12 C. ... D Parter 34
17 PYDD CAMADER FELLOW 37 (7) P ECCES 6-10-7. M Scales (7) 82
18 6040 ONE STUP 4 M Barnes 6-18-0. ... R Genest 76
13 6040 ONE STUP 4 M Barnes 6-18-0.

3-1 Accystem, 5-1 Onel Lad, 6-1 Mesesanti, 7-1 Parcero On Mesnif, 8-1 Heinszley Piter, Ostabb, 18-1 Monis, The Lambium Worm, 16-1 others.

TRADERS: P Ecches. 4 warmers from 10 namers, 40 JPs. J Dadies, 3 irom 12 25 JSs. Mas M Revelley, St from 217, 24 DS. J Jafferson, 9 irom 38, 23 75; 5 Bell. 4 from 17, 22 JSs. D Smith, 14 from 68, 20 PS. K Margan, 5 from 27, 18 JSS. K Margan, 5 from 27, 18 JSS. K Margan, 5 from 27, 18 JSS. K Margan, 5 from 37, 17 JSs. T Explority, 8 from 50, 16 DTs. ICCETS S Metrosa. 3 wishers from 14 rides. 27.4%. N Hamshy, 3 from 15, 20.0%; 6 Greet, 12 from 62, 19.4%; M H Navajitica, 4 from 21, 19.0%; G Lee, 16 from 65, 18.6%, C McCompact, 12 from 70, 17.1%; J Sepple. 12 from 71, 16.9%, E Calleghan, 11 from 70, 16.7%; A S Smith. 11 from 92.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Cheltenham: 2.00 Treasure Chèst. 2.35 Makounii. 5.05 Aboo Horn. Sedgefield: 2.25 Gold Drop. 3.35 Guite Porn, Southwell: 4.05 Stone Ridge. 5.15 Onel Star, Selkirk Rose.

1.45 King Priam. 2.15 Carrie Pooter. 2.50 Albem-

ine. 3.25 Without Friends. 4.05 Yes Keemo Sabee. 4.40 State Approval. 5.15 Scurrilous.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.45 COB HANDICAP (Div I: £3,159: 1m) (10 runners)

10 2466 TOM 32 (V,CD) C Fairbuss 4-7-10 ______ I Grantham (7) 3 4-1 High Noos, 9-2 Jiberees, 11-2 Ron's Pet, 6-1 Rakis, Magical Shot, 7-1 King Prism, 10-1 Sarahom Red, 12-1 others

2.15 DARTIMOOR CLASSIFIED STAKES (£2,316; 7f) (8)

5 -624 TITTA RUFFO 24 (B.F.G) D Star 5-9-5 ...

6-4 Nany's Alba, 2-1 Canie Poeter, 9-2 Titla Rulio, 8-1 Absaul, 16-1 My Legal Eagle, 25-1 Malatan; Smart, 50-1 Septeme Mairronn 2.50 SUFFOLK PUNCH CLASSIFIED CLAIMING

STAKES (£2,141: 1m 6f) (17)

** GOPO SHEEP STEALER 14 R PRESCRI 11-8-12 ... M. Fenton 15
5 09/0 SHEEP STEALER 14 R PRESCRI 11-8-12 ... M. Kenton 15
5 09/0 SHEEP STEALER 14 R PRESCRI 11-8-12 ... Mowers 14
7 000- URGENT REPLY 154 (F.C.S), C Dures 6-8-12 ... J Gooded (7) 3
8 0-29 BLLY BOX 32 (9) I Reisting 7-8-10 ... K Paton 12
9 -244 MCNACO GOLD 27 (20.5-5) D Congrove 7-8-10 ... J Crism 5
10 0-00 KEEN CORPANION 6 T Nestytins 8-9 ... G Duffled 15
10 0-00 KEEN CORPANION 6 T Nestytins 8-9 ... P McCabe 10
12 -005 HILLZAN 25 (C.D.F.E.S) R Bactiman 11-8-8 Dean Mickeown 9
12 -005 HILLZAN 25 (C.D.F.E.S) R Bactiman 11-8-8 Dean Mickeown 9
13 -303′ LMA 512 (B.C.D.F.E.S) R Bactiman 11-8-8 Dean Mickeown 9
14 4320 SR WALTER 28 (9) AT Misrphy 6-8-6 ... J Stack 8
14 4320 SR WALTER 28 (6) AT Misrphy 6-8-6 ... J Stack 8
15 -000 LAME ANA 22 J Fers 6-8-5 ... L Chambook 7
18 2188 KATIE'S CRACKER 8 (C.D.S) M Dann 4-8-3 ... F Norton 11
17 3000 TIME 0UT 8 (C) M Polipiaze 4-7-13 ... P Fessyl 5-1 Monaco Gold, 6-1 Hitzak, 7-1 Two On The Bridge, Billy Box, 8-1 Skyers A 18ke, Albernine, Sir Walter, 10-1 others.

3.25 COB HANDICAP (Div It £3,141: 1m) (9)

3-1 Sterp Scotch, 4-1 Sequenc, 9-2 Metahadeth, 6-1 Without Friends, 13-2 Bubinto, 7-1 Hover Golf Glory, 10-1 Genius, 20-1 others.

4.05 WEIL AND DIAME 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY' HANDICAP (£4,046: 1m 4f) (7)

1 5121 GREEN BOPPER 15 (C.G) G Woodward 6-9-12 ___ C Lowther 4 2 061- STONE RIDGE 471 (V.F.G.S) J Piscos 7-9-12 ___ A Poli (3) 1 3 2521 SNUFT 8 (C.D.F.S) M Poliscos 5-9-11 (Best) ___ K. Fadim 7 4 400- MR FURTYWHEKS 134 (BF.C.D.B.S) J Fyre 5-9-5 _R Lappin 6 5 3443 MOLIKON 13 (CD) P. Berris 6-9-4 ___ F. Fadim 7 F. Fam 5 - 5-4 (S.G.R.S.S.BELO SKIESHO SMEE 5 (BF.D. STON 4-8-10 P. FRZSHOWS (7) 2 7 3-31 COURT DE MONEY 18 (CD) S Bossing 4-8-9 ____ J Quison 3 8-4 Green Bonner, 7-2 Yes, Keerno Saften, 4-1 Court De Money, 7-1 Swift, 10-1 Noutari, 12-1 Stone Ridge, 20-1 Mr. Fortyminis.

4.40 ARAB SELLING STAKES (£1.814: 1m 3f) (6)

1,814: 111 Gr) (-7)

1 1125 MCONRAKING 18 (B,CD) Miss S Witting 6-10-0

2 -160 ROFFEY SPURIEY 38 (F.S) J Collings 5-10-0

B Smith (7) 1

3 12-1 STATE APPROVAL 6 (CD,F) Miss S Witting 6-10-0

C Carrer (5) 2

4 03-0 DANKA 64 K Correlated 5-9-10

M Ferrica 3

5 00-0 GOLDSTAR 24 P Ecoles 4-9-9

S Witting 15 S Witting 18 . 1-6 Spale Approval, 7-4 Moorraking, 10-1 Roffey Spinney, 33-1 Danka. Winnover, 50-1 Goldstar.

5.15 THOROUGHBRED HANDICAP (£2,684: 50) (16)

1 280- DEMOLITION JO 120 (V.F.G.S) P Sens 4-8-12 ... J F Egan 15 2 050- BLUE KITE 94 (BF.D) N Latencates 4-9-9 ... K Fillion 3 3 -244 SARWAR 8 (V.B.F.G) Ms. N Macadam 7-9-9 ... P K Fillion 3 4-44 SARWAR 8 (V.B.F.G) Ns. N Macadam 7-9-9 ... P No. 10 10 FROMTER 4 (V.G.D.) F K Nay 7-9-8 ... Macadam Desper 13 5 -320 AA-YOUKNOWNSTH-MIX 6 (D.S) Macadam 3-5 S. Wielder 18 5 -320 AA-YOUKNOWNOTHING 6 (D.5) Mats J Case 3-9-5
S Websiter 16
7 2540 POLAR MIST 20 (V) Miss N Matantoy 4-8-13
Dean McKerson 12 (V) Miss N Matantoy 4-8-13
POLAR MIST 20 (V) Miss N Matantoy 4-8-13
Dean McKerson 15 (R) Miss N Matantoy 4-8-8 J. Echanock 4
10 000 DREEL STAR 130 (V,D.5) P Eeses 3-8-7 C Cogen (7) 14
14 0000 SELURIK POSE 10 (V,D.5) J Chevr 4-8-7 A Cultima 16
15 03-0 Mis TONS DECOUNTEY 71 (C.D.F) E Alson 5-9-6 L Charnock 7
13 3563 SCURRE 008 12 J L Horris 4-8-0 Miss Miss (3) 10
14 -661 BOWCLIFFE GRANGE 14 (D.F.G) D Chapman 7-7-13 J Quinn 9
15 2-00 BOWG PT ACES 52 (B) D.5) K hory 4-7-12 C Catin (7) 1
16 0432 KALAR 15 (B,CD,F.G) D Chapman 10-7-10. P Fessey 2

4-1 Nilly Norman, 5-1 Bold Frontais, 8-1 Az-Youkramanthing, Bourelife Grange, 16-1 Tanter's Surpaise, Sconsidus, 12-1 Plays Kile, Camen, Hilliags Executive, Kalar, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSPS. Sr. M. Prescott. 25 weams; from 95 namers. 30.6%; Miss S. Wilson. 12 from 42, 28.6%; T. Barron. 26 from 149, 17.4%; D. Carroll. 4 from 23, 17.4%; G. Woodward, 5 from 34, 14.7%, M. Charmod., 7 from 51, 13.7%. ISCN-S. C. Carrel. 8 witness on 18 rules. 44.4%; R. Fizi-Pairick. 8 from 30, 26 7%. K. Pallon. 20 from 95, 20.6%; J. Webert. 37 from 251, 18.6%; P. McCabe. 21 from 144, 14 6%; G. Dudletd, 32 from 250, 13.5%.

Cardinal Hill to answer prayers

ISTABRAQ, an Irish banker at the past two Festivals, faces little more than a lap of honour to retain the Smurfit Champion Hurdle and his short odds disqualify him from serving the same role this time. Today, that dubious honour falls to Cardinal Hill in the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

Like Joe Mac, he is owned by J. P. McManus, but it is Cardinal Hill who has been subject of much more positive reports in recent days. He did an exceptional gallop last week and Noel Meade is optimistic that he can overcome his inexperience to give him a popular first Festival success.



Colonel Yeager is a solid eachway alternative.

A McManus gamble must be possible on Shannon Gale, who reappeared at Christmas after two years on the sidelines, to win the Leopardstown

qualifier for the Stakis Casinos Final. Being 8lb out of the handicap may have a bigger effect on his price than his chance, as he could have improved for Christy Roche.

Time For A Run, a Festival veteran, ran a promising trial for the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup at Leopardstown nine days ago and makes each-way appeal, while His Song has obvious prospects in the Guinness Arkle Trophy Chase.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BOSUNS MATE (5.05 Cheltenham)

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

I Taunton

Going: good, good to soft in places
2.10 (2m 110)d ch) 1, South West Express
(J. Moglord, 11-4), 2, Connaught Cracker
(B-11 law), 3, Jason's Boy (4-1), 5 ran, NR
Northern Sadder: 21, 1% D Wintle Tote,
52.0; £1.70, £1.20, DF: £2.30 CSF £5.10
2.40 (2m 3) 110)d holes 1, Nr Snagget (JA
McCarthy, 7-2), 2, Northern Drums (9-4 law);
3, Mershigher (10-1) 6 ran 1/, 227 Smon
Earle, Tote, £4.90, £2.80, £1.60 DF: £6.50
CSF £11.20
3, 10 (2m 30) 1, Laredo (J Tizzard, 5-4), 2,

3.10 (2m 3) 1, Laredo (J Tezard, 5-4), 2, Echo's of Dawn (12-1), 4 ran, Dist, P Nichols, Tote, £2 10 DF £6.20, CSF, £10.55. s. 106: 22 10 DF 15:20. CSF 2:1039 3.40 (2m 31 10)rd ch) 1, Battswing (D Saler, 10-1); 2, Twinnings Grove (20-1), 3, Cage Aux Folies (4-1) Rad (4th) 6-4 (av 10 ran 15, 13 B Milman Totte: 13:30 52:80, 52:90, 51:70 DF £144.70. CSF £159.75. 4.10 (2m 1) hale) 1, True Vision (A P Mc-Coy, 4-9 tev), 2, Alegaance (25-1); 3, Muhas-ali (10-1), B ran, 7, 5, M Phe, Tote, E1, 30, E1, 10, E2, 40, £1, 10, DF, £5, 70, CSF, £15, 68 21.0, 12.40, 21.10. Dr 12.10 CST-113.06 4.40 (3m or) 1, Muntatal (Nr C R Wesser, 10-1); 2, Just Ben (7-2), 3, Hillhead (12-1). Cartain Angle (Sh) 11-8 lav. 8 ran. 4, 3, 3 rmon T Lews. Tote: 29.40; 22.50, 21.10, 24.80 DF 120.60 CSF-241.06 24 80 DF 220 80 CSF 241 06 5.10 (2m 11 hdle) 7, Laffish (A P McCoy, 4-1); 2, Jaib (9-4 tav); 3, Mr Lero (9-1) 9 ran. 41, 101 M Ppps. 10te 23 60, C3 10, 51.10, 51.80 DF 28.30 Tote Tridea: £159 70 CSF. 512.33, Tricast 267.31 Jackpott £7,100.00 — part won (carry-over of £7,465.63 to Chellamham today). Placepott 288.90. Guadpott £24.70.

Plumpton

Going: soil 2.00 (2m 4) hole) 1, Johnston's Art (B Powell, evens law; 2. Guilible Guy (6-1); 3, Prese Minstral (50-1), 7 ran. NR: Peasadown Tole-na. 141, 131. R Buckler. Tole: £1.90; £1.20, 22.70. DF: £4.80. CSF: £5.20.

Deep Reiran (16-1) 4 ran 27, dist Miss Venetia Williams Tote £1-40 DF £1-30 CSF: £1-57 CSP: 11 B7 3.00 (2m 1) hdse) 1. Whirtawhile (S Kell, 2-15 lay) 2, in Good Order (25-1) 3. Cashe Hill (33-1) 5 ran 13, 22 Mass Venetra Wil-lems Tota £1 10 £1 10, £2 90 DF £2.20. CSP: £4 49 Car D449
3.30 (2m 11 hdie) 1. Suranom J F Titley.
7-4 lav. Richard Evans's map) 2. Tissue of Les (2-1), 3. Rummate (9-2) 7 ran (2-1, 24 Mrs D Hane. Tote £2.70, £1.30, £1.50 DF £3.50 CSF £5.37.

##3 Phame. Role Et .10, 27-30, 21-30 DF C3.50 CSF SS 37

4.00 (2m S1 cm) 1. Full of Bounce (P Holley, 12-1) 2. No Marier (11-4) 3. Scobe Gai (5-2) Regal Aura (4th) 5-4 hav 4 ran. NR Scavo. 12, 12, 12 Hodges Tote ST3 30 DF ST1 40 CSF, ES7 01

4.30 (3m 11 110yd ch) 1. Westerlands Queen (Mr A Charles-None, evens lan). 2. My Best Man [5-4]. 3. Procaco (14-1) Sran. 13, dist. H. Marmers. Tote SZ 10. CZ 10. ET 10 DF, ST 50 CSF SZ 47

5.00 (2m 4t holle) 1. Blazze of Oak (Mess V Roberts, 4-5 lan). 2. August Twelfth (100-30). 5. Fighung Times (12-1) 5 ran. 24, 221 P Eccles. Tote ST 90 ST 60, ET 30 DF SZ 10 CSF, S3 86

Placeport. S24.90. Quadrot: \$33.50.

Stratford

Goling: heavy 1,80 (2m 6/ 110yd hdle) 1, Yer 'umble (R Farrant, 50-7), 2, Lethylak (P-1), 3, Ballyna-bragget (7-1) Caldams (4m) 4-6 fav 9 ran, 14, 4/ J Cressnell Tote 258 40, 28 80, 22 30, 21 10 (DF 1275 40 CSF 5371 98 2.20 (2m 4f ch) 1, Jocks Cross (N Williamson, 1-12 faw), 2, Anns Display (12-1); 3, Cherry Orchol (25-1); 3 fan '4, 20 Mess Venetia Williams Tote £1 10 DF: £1 30 CSF £1 46.
2.50 (2m 3) hole) 1, Stassford Hill (R Johnson, 4-1); 2, Rusk (7-4 law); 3, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 3, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 2, Rusk (7-4 law); 3, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 3, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 4, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 4, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 5, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 6, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 6, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 7, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 8, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 8, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 8, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1); 9, Balmoral Prinson, 4-1) 2.10 to the time on the U on the 27 to 3.20 for and 1 Roundwood (G care 55 ta) 2. Moneasman (94 to 1.00 for 170 to 16 to 14 for 5 to 20 DHughes Tota \$2.00 DF \$2.30 CSF \$3.91 3.50 (2m 110) dihate 1, Wesley's Lad (3) Bushell, 7-41, 2, The Breamaster (7-2) 3

Burder, Tote 62:10 DF 62:90 GSF 65:53
4.20 (3m ch) 1 Tombols (8:19 Pousse, 1-2 fast); 2, Tomospoppi (8-1) 2, Ridwar, 150-11 14 ran, NR MF Prinsal, 10; dis Mis Caroline Banky, Tote 61:70, 61:71, 62:10, 62:20 11:10 DF 64:60 CSF 64:91
4.50 (2m 110xd fast); 1 Lialysin (6:10 assistant 10:11 tax), 2 Tom Coberer (11-2); 3 Royalyanker (7-1) Brain 6:39 Mass Vereba Walams, Tote 61:80; 07:30 61:40 62:00 DF 63:10 CSF: 65:49

Placepot: £117.20. Quadpot: £17.40.





hat strange and transitory creatures

are. They move and some-

times fail to settle with the fluc-

tuation of butterflies and, in

the global world where goals

are the lingua franca, two of

them are on the outside look-

ing in as clubs prepare for another decisive midweek in

Europe and elsewhere. Manchester United will not

have to face the most potent

and in-form striker that

Internazionale possess, for Al-

varo Recoba is surplus to re-

quirements. He rates behind a

half-fit Ronaldo, an often

tenuously fit Roberto Baggio, the fledgeling Nicola Ventola and the experienced Ivan

Recoba, the young, swarthy, delightful Uruguayan, has been loaned to Venezia, for

whom he scored a devastating

hat-trick against the aspiring Serie A champions, Fiorenti-

The left foot of Recoba is, at

its best, every bit the magi-

Zamorano.

football goalscorers

Stadium of fright will test mettle of United

FROM OLIVER HOLT. FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE is a sense of peacefulness and elegance about the l6th-century palace that houses the offices of Internazionale in the city centre here that suggests not much disturbs the equilibrium of those who work

Classical frescoes adorn the walls and the high ceilings. The sound of visitors climbing the broad stone staircases to the trophy room echo around the Palazzo Caproni and mix with laughter and the chatter of friendly greetings. Yesterday, though, an air of

patrician surprise that verged on indignation was floating around the building, too, as news of Alex Ferguson's renewed attack on Inter and their propensity for scheming. conniving, plotting and generally being Italian began to reach them

Ferguson's thinly disguised xenophobia is nothing new be-fore games such as this. His comments about the underhand tactics he thinks Inter are likely to employ before the European Cup quarter-final. second leg tomorrow night represent a tried and tested way of putting pressure on the referee. In this case, the official is a Frenchman, Gilles Veisier, who sent off Steve McMana-man and Paul Ince in Liver-pool's Uefa Cup tie against Valencia earlier this season. He also refereed Manchester United's defeat at the hands of Juventus in the Stadio delle Alpi last season, so the omens for a night when the San Siro will be full to bursting, its fans at their most passionate, are not encouraging.

Despite the disquiet of Inter and their players, the issue of whether the desperation of the Italians to overturn United's 2-0 lead will manifest itself in excessive gamesmanship is, together with the projected return of Ronaldo, beginning to dominate the run-up to the

ground, their players affected surprise, too, at Ferguson's comments. Aron Winter, the Holland international, poured scorn on the United manager's observations. "He's just looking for an alibi," Winter said. "We play our own game. We are not interested in those things he is talking about. We have got a very good team and now that Ronaldo is fit and playing that is going to be another weapon for us.

This is the one game that can rescue our season. The atmosphere is going to be crazy because we will be playing in front of 85,000 people and 75,000 of them will be for Inter. You can imagine what it will be like. It is one of our strengths that we are used to playing in front of that many. Old Trafford had a good atmosphere, but there are going to be 30,000 more at the San

The stadium, where the fans set up their own megaphones on the Curva Nord and the Curva Sud to magnify their screams and exhortations, will be like an inferno tomorrow night. There will be smoke bombs, flares and firecrackers hurled onto the pitch and it is essential for United not to allow themselves to become intimidated by the atmosphere.

In the past, perhaps, lack of discipline might have let them down but now that many of their young players have matured, they are less vulnerable. David Elleray, who refereed United's game against Newcastle United on Saturday, is confident that they will not allow themselves to become deflected from their task.

"United will need to be aware that there will be a cer-



Recoba proves deadly from a free kick for Venezia against Fiorentina. Internazionale could do with his striking prowess against Manchester United

tain amount going on off the ball," Elleray said. "There will be quite a lot of blocking of runs, body-checking and shirt-tugging, which will not neces-sarily be seen by the referee because it will almost certainly be out of his line of vision.

"It will be like a game of physical chess and the Italians will try to get United's players booked, either to dull their game or as a first step to getting them sent off.

"You just need one or two Italians to start rolling around in agony, to see if the referee takes any action, and that could wind United up. English players tend to get stroppy about that kind of exaggeration. But people like Keane, Butt and Scholes are much more mature now. Beckham. because of that Argentina game, now knows the problems that retaliation brings. In terms of composure, United are probably better equipped than they were last season."

That assessment should cheer Ferguson, to say nothing of the fact that Ronaldo, suffering from a migraine, could not train yesterday. The schemers have got some catching up to



Overseas View

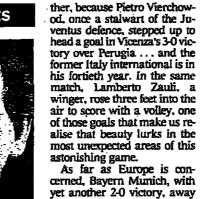
cian's tool that is the right foot of Baggio. He demonstrated it with a free kick from 22 yards. the far, high corner of the net.

The same foot was to deceive Fiorentina's goalkeeper again in the second half and then the diminutive Recoba concluded his special day late with the right foot that he nor-

It was, in all, another unpre

Rideout: moving to China

ROB HUGHES



Inter missing loan dividend

He took no more than two paces, his foot seemed deceptively to caress the ball, but it flew with astonishing ferocity into

in the game by anticipating a defender's error, hustling him with a matador's swerve, then eluding the goalkeeper and tapping the ball over the line mally requires only to stabilise

dictable weekend in Italy. Juventus, who face a tricky second leg in Piraeus against Olympiakos tomorrow, achieved a late winning goal against Udinese to confirm their tentative recovery under Carlo Ancelotti, who has replaced Marcello Lippi as trainer. And age is no barrier, ei-

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

THE Football Association is

expected to stage the Graeme Le Saux-Robbie Fowler

misconduct hearing after

championship match with

Wembley on March 27.

That means the two

still hanging over them.

England's European

tory over Perugia ... and the former Italy international is in his fortieth year. In the same

to SV Hamburg, are strolling

in the Bundesliga and are fa-vourites to defeat Kaiserslau-tern in the quarter-finals.

If Munich and Juventus

and, though nothing should be taken for granted, Manches-ter United fulfil expectations.

who would be the fourth semi-

finalist in the European Cup?

John Toshack, finding his feet

in charge of Real Madrid and

grateful for their 3-1 victory

away to Racing Santander on

It is a belief tinged, perhaps, with wishful thinking. For af-ter Kiev had mastered Real at the Santiago Bernabeu in the first leg, the Kiev team, having wintered much more thoroughly than a year ago, looked capable not only of eliminating the champions of the Continent but of going all the way.

Andrei Shevchenko should

team away from home.

Dynamo Kiev are a better

be buoyed by his fine and customary goal in the I-I draw in Madrid yet if there are 100,000 people in the stadium in Kiev, none will take tomorrow for granted. They were in this position 12 months ago but, having held Juventus also 1-1 in Turin, they fell apart to the skills of Filippo Inzaghi, who scored three of Juventus's

startling four away goals. That is the value, the surprise, the sting of the goalscorer. How many recall Paul Ride out, then a schoolboy apprentice with Swindon Town, scoring a memorable hat-trick at Wembley when England Un-der-15 defeated Scotland 5-0?

Rideout hit the net with one extraordinary burst from the halfway line, lashing his shot from 35 yards. But the boy has meandered through manhood. He played for Aston Villa, for Bari in Serie A, and he played on other continents. leased by Kansas City Wiz-American Major League Soccer, where he shared the attack with the fleeting Scotland forward. Mo Johnston. Rideout has now

joined Chongquing, in China. A strange world, indeed, for those who can go anywhere and put the ball into that confined space between the posts.

Barnsley ! lacking confidence for Cup encounter

Moya cri

By GEORGE CAULKIN

NO DISRESPECT to Barnsley. Those four words, repeated like a mantra — a patronising, grudging acknowledgement - have come to symbolise and shape a football club.

They imply a certain overachievement, a sense of living above their station. They have been mouthed quite a lot over the past three seasons and usually followed by a significant "but . . ." It has been no different in the build-up to the rescheduled FA Cup quarter-final tie with Tottenham Hotspur tonight.
No disrespect to Barnsley.

but Tottenham are clear fa-

They have grown immune to it at Oakwell. Two years ago Mark McGhee, then manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, questioned their stamina and ambition. At the time it had seemed an unnecessary broadside, fuelled perhaps by Barnsley's ascension to the EA Carting Premiership ahead of richer, brasher Wolves, but the sentiment stuck.

It lasted throughout the ten-month jaunt that followed, as Barnsley sustained some heavy bludgeoning but beat Liverpool and Aston Villa all of it to the eternal backdrop of "It's just like watching Brazil." This season, without a league win in 1999 and down

to seventeenth in the Nationwide League first division, it has been far more like watching Barnsley.
A combination of relegation

and Danny Wilson's defection to Sheffield Wednesday have served to reverse the momentum gradually generated over the previous four years.

John Hendrie, the new manager, was a popular and amicable appointment, but confidence is low and the mood is decidedly tetchy. In the last round of the Cup, a 4-1 victory



over Bristol Rovers was soured when Hendrie became embroiled in a heated confrontation with Clint Marcelle, the Trinidad and Tobago forward. It was not an argument. over Barnsley's tactical pattern, but disagreement trig-gered by Marcelle's clothing, and resolved by the chairman.

Ashley Ward, who had scored 15 goals, was sold to Blackburn Rovers late last year; and though Craig Hignett, Hendrie's former Middlesbrough team-mate. has been playing well since signing from Aberdeen for £800,000, another new arrival. Bruce Dyer, has struggled. "I have faith in my ability and I always go into a game thinking I'm going to score." Dyer, who left Crystal Palace in a £750,000 transfer, said. "I

Barnsley have failed to score in eight of their past ten league games. Their game plan against Tottenham will not deviate far from their normal blueprint. They will pass the iootball, hope to take the London fancy Dans unawares and pray that their opponents' looming visit to Wembley in the Worthington Cup will go some way to preventing another. I would have thought it would be in the back of their minds," Dyer said.

know I will come good."

Hendrie can point to defeats of Bolton Wanderers, Manchester United and, indeed, Spurs, as they reached a similar stage of the competition last season. He will say that, whatever their Cup form, George Graham's team have not won an away league game since October. He will point. for the first time in recent weeks, to the strength of his-squad. Neither side is troubled by injury. Graham said yester-

day:
"If we get through, we've a hard game against Newcast tle." No disrespect to Barnsley. BARNSLEY (possible, 4-4-2) T.B. Euck

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Robson patience

By GEORGE CAULKIN

Poland, which takes place at BRYAN ROBSON'S seasonplayers — if they are chosen for international duty, as expected — must spend next week together with the issue

The FA cannot stage the hearing, which concerns the pair's altercation during the game between Chelsea and Liverpool on February 27, this week because Fowler is in a training camp in France and Le Saux will not return from Chelsea's game with Valerenga in Norway until Friday.

The England players meet up at Bisham Abbey on Sunday and an FA hearing would clash with preparations for the Poland game. A spokesman for the FA said yesterday: "It's a possibility that the hearing will be held over."

☐ Blackburn Rovers

yesterday denied that they had received any offers for Kevin Davies, their striker. Sheffield Wednesday were believed to have bid £4 million for Davies, who has not settled at Ewood Park since a £7.5 million transfer from Southampton last summer.

☐ Walter Smith, the manager of Everton, has dismissed reports linking Michael Ball, their England Under-21 defender, with a move to Liverpool, "There is no truth in these rumours and we can do without them." Smith said.

O'Neill rewards

long search for a wide mid-field player reached a successful, if belated, conclusion last night when Middlesbrough agreed an undisclosed fee with Norwich City for Keith O'Neill, their highly regarded Ireland international. O'Neill, 23, is expected to

sign a four-year contract today, accepting terms of £8,000 a week and therefore banishing fears that he would leave Carrow Road on a free transfer this summer. Norwich, who rejected a £4 million bid for the Dublin-born winger last season, can expect to receive only a quarter of that sum from Middlesbrough.

Robson and his assistant, Anderson, watched O'Neill against Bradford City on Saturday and, in part, it is the versatility of a player who can also operate as a central striker that appeals. Although Middlesbrough beat South-

O'Neill: four-year deal

ampton 3:0 two days ago, they have struggled in the creation and converting of goals. A

winger, however, has long

been a priority. Deals to take Keith Gillespie, Steve Stone, Steve Froggatt and Francesco Moriero to the Riverside Stadium have all broken down at various stages of advancement and, in the absence of new personnel, much onus has been placed on the

wing back, Dean Gordon.
Like Gordon, formerly of
Crystal Palace, O'Neill, who has been plagued by knee and foot injuries recently, is natu-rally left-footed, but his arrival will give Robson another attacking option. Middles-brough have won just match in 1999 and cannot count themselves completely clear of the relegation fray.

The Sunderland manager, Peter Reid, has ridiculed sug-gestions that Michael Bridges, the England Under-21 striker, could be on the verge of a transfer to Newcastle United. "Michael has got a year left on his contract and we've offered him a new deal. That tells you my feelings on the subject." Reid said.

Bury, of the Nationwide League first division, yesterday signed Paul Barnes, a striker, from Huddersfield Town. The fee involved is around £40,000 and Barnes, 3L has signed a two-year contract at Gigg Lane. He will be available for Bury's match against Wolverhampton Wan-

FGOTBALL . .

TODAY'S FIXTURES

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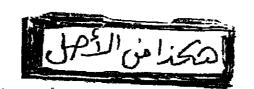
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TENNIS: NEW WORLD NO 1 DISPELS DOUBTS BY DISPLAYING VERSATILITY TO BECOME MASTER OF ANY SURFACE

Moya crowned as king of all courts

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

CARLOS MOYA may have lost the battle, but he has cerminly won the war. Mark Philippoussis proved to be the better man in Indian Wells on Sunday in the final of the Newweek Champions Cup. but as of yesterday Moya is the better man overall. His performances over the course of last week pushed him ahead of Pete Sampras in the world rankings. The margin is small, a meagre 37 points, but it is enough to crown Moya king of the hill as the tour moves on from California to Florida and the start of the Lipton championships on

It also proves that there is rather more to Spanish tennis

Greg Rusedski dropped out of the top ten in the world in the updated rankings issued yesterday. Rusedski, who has had a generally disappointing 1999, fell three places to thirteenth after his defeat in Indian Wells last week by Tim Henman, who has risen by one place to sixth.

than clay-court sluggers. Sure enough, Moya is the French Open champion, a title he won by beating Alex Corretja, his nearest rival in Spain, but the system that finds and moulds oung talent into champions has its eyes fixed on a worldwide goal. At the training centre in Barcelona, the hard courts sit alongside the clay and, as the young guns grow in confidence, so they believe they can win titles on almost any surface.

"I always considered myself a good hard-court player," Moyà, 22. said, a little miffed that someone should think his week's work here was a fluke: "I reached the final in Australia, the semi-finals of the US Open, I won a title on hard courts and I have beaten most of the top players on hard courts. It's obvious that my best results have been on clay, but I didn't feel uncomfortable here." He also does not feel uncomfortable with his No I

Most people would have for-given him for throwing in the towel against Philippoussis. By beating Gustavo Kuerten in the semi-finals, he knew he had done enough to reach his greatest goal, so to pick him-self up for one more match was something of an achieve-ment. To battle for nearly three hours was remarkable. but then Moya has been looking forward to this part of his

career for some time.
"I would love to have more pressure every time," he said.
"I think that I handle it very well. I have proved that 1 canwin a grand-slam tournament, but I have also proved that I can win matches after that grand-slam. You have all the attention from everyone and I can deal with that pres-

Moyà is one of the tour's nice guys. He is a charming chap and appears so laid-back as to be almost horizontal. But in the background his support crew of Jose Perlas, his coach, and Luis Miguel Morales, his fitness trainer, have the mas-

ter plan.
"Everyone knows that I am not a hard worker." Moyà said, "so they are always finding new ways for me to make it easy. They make it more fun for me. We are a real team and this is very important for me. More than my coach, they are my friends, they know my

They also know how to keep Moya's spirits up. At the end of last year he led Correija by two sets to love in the final of the ATP world championships - and then lost. "It was the most disappointing day of my

life," he said. Things did not get much better as the new season started, losing in the first round in Melbourne. "When you are playing that bad you think there is no way out, you cannot even put the ball in play," he said. But I kept trying. I always had belief in myself and they



Although he has had most of his success on clay, Moyà has developed into an outstanding all-court player. Photograph: Kevork Djansezian

always trust me a lot. They show me there is a way out. I start to play better in Dubai. I went on holiday and then had some good practice in Barcelona. I came to California and started to play better and bet-

How long he can keep this up and hold on to his new ranking is a matter of some debate. Sampras is so close behind him that he is almost standing on his heels, but Sampras is going through a ropy patch. His long winter break may have recharged his batteries, but it has done little for his volleys.

Yevgeny Kafelníkov is but a pace behind Sampras and, armed with his new coach, Larry Stefanki, a man used to difficult souls, having worked with John McEnroe and Marcelo Rios, the Russian is finally turning into the player that he promised to be three years ago. But Moyà does not seem to mind; he is, after all, the world No 1.

"This what everyone is looking for," he said. "I've done it. Maybe tomorrow another does it - it works that way. One time you are up, one time you are down. This is my time



Oct 1992 - April 1993J Couries April 1993 -- Aug 1993......P Sampras Aug 1993 — Sept 1993...... . Courier Sept 1993 -- April 1995.......... Sampras Nov 1995 — Jan 1996 Sampras Feb 1996 — Feb 1998.... T Muster Feb 1996 -- March 1996, Sampras March 1996 — April 1996.... ... Mustar April 1996 — March 1998......Samoras March 1998 - Aug 1998 M Rice Aug 1998 — March 1999.

TOP RANKING



Inkster, an ultra-competitive

player, admitted. "I've had a

great career. I have two great

kids and a great husband. But

times have changed. There's

the foreign invasion, a lot of

the girls are having kids — it's

a changing tour and we need-

ed to change the Hall of

have now qualified deservedly

and the amazing Annika So-

Beth Daniel and Amy Alcon

BOWLS

CHRIS HIOM, from Boston, won the British women's indoor singles title at Belfast vesterday when she beat the Welsh champion, Acres Davies, from Machynlleth's Bro Ddyfi club, 21-19 in an exciting final, Scotland, however, won all three team events, beating irish opponents in the finals of the pairs, triples and fours, but only after making great escapes in the triples and fours.

Jane Brooksby, May Townsley and Liz Wren, from Falkirk, trailed Joyce Mulholland's Ballymoney trio 2-12 alter nine ends and were still 16-12 adrift with two ends to play. Scoring two trebles,

Falkirk won 18-16. Their achievement paled into insignificance, however, compared with that of an auchinleck quartet skipped by Josephine Williamson. BY DAVID RHYS JONES

who went into the last end needing five shots to beat County Antrim and collected a nap hand to win 20-19. Sandra McLeish and Agnes

Melrose, of Midlothian, had a relatively straightforward 17-12 victory over Kathleen Megrath and Eileen Bell, of Belfast, in the pairs final. Bell has played for Ireland

since 1966, but has never won a British title, and was naturally hoping to put right the omis-sion, but the Midlothian pair, who trailed 8-9 after 13 ends. took control over the last third, scoring nine shots to three over the last eight ends.

Hiom had to play only one game to win the singles title, because Margaret Letham. the Scottish champion, who jack on the 24th end.

was to be her opponent in the semi-finals, was on her way to South Africa, where she is due to play in the Atlantic Rim Games. No substitution is allowed in the singles, and the British officials are furious that their event has been devalued by the scheduling of an international outdoor event dur-

ing the indoor season. Although Hiom had not played a real game on the green before the final she scored a treble on the eleventh end and a full house of four shots on the thirteenth to lead 14-9, but promptly dropped six shots over the next three ends.

Scoiding herself, and gesturing at every bowl, she talked ber way back into the game, until Davies went through a narrow gap between her match-winning shot and the

ARCHERY

BASKETBALL

102 New Jersey 76; Sacramento 105 LA Lat-ers 101, Seattle 106 LA Cappers 89.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunday's result: Chester Jets 106 Peugeot Bullets Birming-lam 109.

GOLF: AMERICAN'S FIRST BIG WIN FOR SEVEN YEARS EDGES HER NEARER LANDMARK

Hiom rides good fortune Fame supplies spur for Inkster

JULI INKSTER, a personable Californian, moved a point closer to the Hall of Fame with victory in the Welch's/Circle K championship at Randolph North in Tucson, Arizona, on Sunday. It was the eighteenth win of her 16-year career and she now has 21 points, just six short of the total required under the new criteria introduced earlier this year.

inkster, who had not won a full-field event since 1992, had an eagle three at the 13th, a 470-yard par-five ranked the easiest hole on the course, to vault into a lead she that never lost. She hit a seven-wood 215 yards to eight feet and the club she had once shunned also set up a birdie four at the 16th and a final round of 65, seven under par.

"I'm a traditionalist, I used to think it was a cheater's

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN TUCSON, ARIZONA two ahead of Catriona Mat-

club," she said, "but I cheated all the way to the bank." She won \$93,750 (£56,756) with her total of 273, 15 under par, one shot ahead of her Solheim Cup colleague, Dottie Pepper, and



thew, of Scotland. Matthew, who hit 17 greens. was always in contention and a birdie four at the last secured third place on her own, and a cheque for \$42,458. She is now fourteenth on the money-list

with \$89,315. Inkster, who won the US Women's Amateur title three years in a row when Tiger Woods was just starting to swing a club, has won three major titles as a professional but, until the changes, a place in the Hall of Fame - there were only 14 members, so tough were the conditions seemed to be out of her reach. Now she is just a point behind Laura Davies and it is more than a possibility.

Fame."

renstam needs a mere three points. If the Swede were to win the Standard Register Ping this week and the Nabisco Dinah Shore, a major championship worth two points, next week, she would be in bar a four-year wait. She is only in her sixth season on the Ladies' Professional Golf Association Tour and the rules say she has to have been around for ten years.

Briers is cleared of gouging charge

RUGBY LEAGUE: Lee Briers, the Warrington scrum half, was vesterday exonerated over allegations of gouging. It followed a claim by Stuart Spruce, the Bradford Bulls full back who claimed that he was gouged during his side's 52-16 Challenge Cup quarter-final win on Sunday. The Rugby Football League executive ruled that Briers 'had no case to answer" after they examined the incident on video. Briers's team-mate, Danny Farrar, the Warrington hooker and captain, was also told he would not be facing any action after being placed on report by the referee. John Connolly, for a possible high tackle in the same match.

RUGBY UNION: Australia is set to break the world attendance record of 95,000 with ticket sales for the Bledisloe Cup match with New Zealand on August 28. John O'Neill, the Australian Rugby Union managing director, said yesterday that crowd figures, at present approaching six figurees. could even beat the 104.000 rugby league world-record attendance that was set at the opening fixtures of the Australian Rugby League championship at the Olympic stadium last week. Ticket sales have outstripped single-day sales for the rugby league double-header," he said. **E GOLF:** Patrik Sjoland.of

Sweden, who feared he had just missed out on a Masters debut next month, has been added to the starting line-up at Augusta. Sjoland, 27. thought he might have to reach the world's top 50 to receive an invitation. He dropped to 53rd last week but has finally been rewarded for finishing fifth on the European order of merit last season, Miguel Angel Jiménez, of Spain, who retained his Turespaña Masters title on Sunday, has also been called up for the first major of the year.

MOTOR RACING: Michael Schumacher twisted an ankle while jogging and will miss private testing today and tomorrow in Barcelona. a spokesman for the double world champion said vesterday. Heiner Buchinger said the injury was not serious and would not prevent Schumacher from taking part in the next race, the Brazilian Grand Prix, on April II in São Paulo.

■ TABLE TENNIS: England should know next week whether the world championships in Belgrade next month will be called off because of the political situation in the Balkans. The United States have already pulled out of the 14-day tournament, which begins on April 26.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

kusk off 7 30 unless stated denotes all-licket Units Cup AS Roma (1) - Arienco Madrid (2). Celta Vigo (1) v Marcelles (2) (8.45) -Lyons (0) v Belogna (3)... Parma (1) v Bordeaus (2) (5.30) ... FA Cap Earnsley v Tottermam (7.45)...

FOOTBALL

Nationwide League First division Bury v Woverhomston (7 45) Brackpool v Bournemouth Marcherter City v North County (7 45) Stoke v Futham (7 45) Third division

Brontoid - Halifar (7.45) Robertain v Cardif (7.45) Auto Windscreens Shield Northern section final First leg gan v Weekam (7 45:

dinem section Unai Second leg Haran III i Markat (* 745,... istigmatica Conserance Ownerson - Farmer Coop 17 451 Liste 7 Southoot 17 451 Normarch v Devicestre (7 45) Receiver and Technology V Dover 17 451 Walking v Streen and 7 451 Walking v Kotsena, 7 451

Terrects Scottish Cup Minuser Leader Ounder Uto's Act (7,65) Souther League Third division Marion & Marine

The Secretary of Secretary Property of the Secretary of S Control of the second of the s

Stordord v Heybridge (at St Alben's City, 7.45) Cubech v Billenicay, Hempton v Enseid, Hercton v Sudin Unded First division: Banton Rovers v Staines: Bognor Regs v Benthamsted Gargs v History, Leatherhead v Whiteleste; Alaudaninead v Leyton Pennent. Second division: Bentsed v Waserinoe; Bantong v Windsor and Evor Edguase v Tooting and Mitchen, Hemel Hempted v Waserinoe; Bantong v Windsor and Evor Edguase v Tooting and Mitchen, Hemel Hempted v Weighgham v Legition Town, Histland v Northwood; Met Poice v Marton, Witnam v Harton Wollingham v Legition Town. Third division: Coruntana Casala v Dorlang. East Traves v Hondundt. Eghan v Legition Town. Third division: Coruntana Casala v Dorlang. East Traves v Hondundt. Eghan v Lewis: Pacientel Heath v Epson and Ewell. Kingsbury v Tibury. Were v Southell. THE TRIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fitting division: Portsmouth v Chelsen, York v West Hem.

AVON INSURANCE COMBENATION: Reading v Charlon (20); Swindon v Arsena (at Caunty Goound, 7.15).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE Premier division: Codern v Shellied Wednesday (7.0). Port Valor Bussey (7.0)

WINSTONLEAD (ERNT LEAGUE).

Sylicingdon Borouch: Potters Bar Lown Visition St. Many at St. Mangareston Visition St. Many at St. Mangareston Visition Construction St. Mangareston Visition Countries League: Permiter division: Countries League: Permiter division: Characteriston Visition Visition Countries Countries Countries Visition: Characteriston Visition Countries Countries Visition: Characteriston Visition Countries League: Permiter division: Countries League: Permiter division: Countries League: Permiter division: Gazaroughton Wellard National St. Mangareston Visition Countries League: Permiter division: Gazaroughton Wellard Permiter division: Gazaroughton Wellard Permiter division: Gazaroughton Wellard Permit Visition Countries League: Permiter division: Gazaroughton Wellard Permiter Countries Countries League: Permiter Countries Countrie

OTHER SPORT MCE MOCKEY: Setonds playett chempionship: Group B: Nationarium National Revolution (7 20)

riavania, Cobe: World Indoor terget championships; Men compound individual: 1, Butts (US) 350pts; 2, J Mynot (G8) 350; 3, S Terples (G8) 352. Other British placing; 5, M Pearl (G8) 174. Men compound team; 1, United States 530; 2, Great Bottan 518: 3, Sweden 529 Women's compound individual: 1, A Karruri (US) 347; 2, F Palaczini (II); 3, C Treneman (G8) 343. HAVANA, Cuba: World Indoor target champiouships: Men compound individ-NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NEA): Wash-ington 98 Milwayles 86; Detrot 72 Allanta 85; New York 94 Chaelicite 86; Phoenis 104 Houston 90; Indigna 99 Boston 98; Migral

Valo & Burney (7.0)
WINSTORLEAD KENT LEAGUE:
Premier lengue: Ent V Beckenham:
Herre Bay v Faversham.
SCREWFOX DRIECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnslepte V Brogswiller.
Busingon v Bishop Surion, Bristol Menor Farm v Mekstam. Paulion Rovers v Chipperham Vischuly v Royal Town Rovers.
BRIMERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MED-LAMIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barlspate v Seaconsiald Sycob. Hoddesdon:
Philosophia Security Royal Control Silvent Sil BELFAST: British women a indoor cham-pionships: Seral-finate: Singlas: A Device (Bro Odyll, Wales) bit A Dograft (Belfast, fer) 21-17: C Horn (Beston, Eng) who, M Lethern (Bigstyre, Scot) sor Finate: Singlast Horn ti Device 21-19. Pairs: Singlast Horn ti Device 21-19. Pairs: Singlast Horn to Ball (Belfast, ke) 17-12. Triplest J Brooks-by, M Toursiby, E Went Fellert, Scot) bit F Cehrt, A Elicit, J Mutholland (PTBC, Baly-mons, ke Adams, J Williamson, Aucturilest, Scot) bit M Wildinson, M Croig, M Cameron, G Lew (County Anthin, Ins) 20-18

BALA, North Weles: Statom national championsthip: Marc K1: 1, P Raicille (Largoller) 3mm 17 48sc; 2, S Pearce 3 2037; 3, I Paspin (Teassale) 3 25 60. C1: 1, G Brown C.R Cate) 3 44.52; 2, 3 McIntosh (Amovorati) 3,49 56; 3, S Bowman (Des. Mas.) 350,35; C2: P Green and S Green (Pask) 4 16; 48, 2, S Bowman and N Smath (Pask) 4 20 55; 3, A Roden and J Roden (Staffs & Stone) 441 56.

Second Test match New Zealand v South Africa CHRISTOHURCH (final day of five): New Zealand draw with South Africa NEW ZEALAND: First trinings 168 (S M. Politick 4 for 34)

CRICKET

BOWLING, Pollock 12-4-23-0; Kusener 17-4-33-0; Adams 15-0-52-0, Kaffs 6-2-13-0, Cronie 4-3-1-0. SOUTHARRICAL First Inrange 442 for 1 de-clared (H H Gibbs 211 not out, J H Kalls 148 not out, G Kirsten 65). Umphres: K T Francis (Sn Lanka) and D M Quested.

Asian Test championship Sri Lanka v Pakistan DHAKA (fourth day of five) Pakistan baat Sn Lanka by an innings and 175 runs SRI LANKA: First trinings 231 (P A de Silva 72; Arshad Khan 5 for 58).

Total_ FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-5, 3-9, 4-48, 5-59, 6-59, 7-81, 8-101, 9-115. BOWLING, Wasim Akram 7-0-33-3: Shoalb Adutar 10.4-3-26-0; Saqlain Mustraq 28.5-15-46-3; Arshad Khan 12-3-41-1, Sha-hud Ahidi 7-1-31-2

PAKISTAN: First Invings: 594 (fizz Ahrned 211, Inzamern-d-Haq 200 not out, Saeed Anwar 57; U D U Chenden 6 for 179) Umpires: D B Cowe (New Zesland) and D R Shephard (England). CYCLING

ALBA ADRIATICA, Imby: Terreno-Adriati-co race: Shith stage (170km): 1, R Ven-steins (Lat) 3tr 49mm 2sec; 2, F Beldato (III; 3, G Metsto Fagnini (II); 4, B Corte (II); 5, T Hoffman (Hoti) eli seme time, 8, M Genetti (Switz) at 2sec; 7, P Ugumunov (Pass), 68, G Remondi (II) 149, 9, A Petacchi (II); 10, J Svocada (Cz) both same time.

WINCHESTER COLLEGE: Men's rational doubles championship: Quarter 6-mais: 1 Fuler and D Nabdan bt J Armage and J Gribble 15-2, 15-0, S Constantine and R Barr by T Macone and R Birription 15-4.

15-9; N Austin and R Nagy bt A Wilson and J Schroeser 6-15, 15-13, 15-6, 14 Bucharan

والمتراب والمنافي والمنتفي والتفايي فللمستوان والمتعارف والمتواصي والمتراث والمتراث والمتراث والمتراث والمتراث

and R Perry bit H Wisseman and M Wisseman 15-6, 15-9 Semi-finals: Futer and Heb-den bit Constantine and Ber 15-6, 15-0. Buchanna and Perry bit Austin and Negy 15-6, 12-15, 15-13. Finals Futer and Heb-den bit Buchanan and Perry 15-7, 15-10 Women's National Championships

Women's National Championships. Singles: Quarter-(linels: P Smith bt T Marcien 15-4; K White bt A Welks 15-6; D Hall-Wilton bt D Watson 15-6; E Tadman bt M Love 15-3. Semi-fissals: Smith bt White 15-7; Tadman bt Hall-Wilton 15-7. Flast: Smith bt Tadman 15-7, 15-9 Dou-bles: Semi-fissals: P Smith and D Hall-Wilton bt A Wells and M Rees 15-7; K Woste and E Tedman bt M Love and G Yataman 15-7; Final: Smith and Hall-Wilton bt White and Tadman 15-9, 15-7.

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Independente ARIGENTINE: LEAGUE: independiente 1 Newell's Old Boys 1, Union 2 Huracan 2; Carmasie de Jupy 0 Boca Juniors 2, Estu-dientes de la Plata 3 Vetez Sarsfield 1; San Loranzo 3 Colon 1, Tallanés 3 Platense 2, Rosario Centrel 2 Racarg Calo 1; Farcari ni Osatz 0 Gimmasa y Esgirma La Plata 1; River Plate 2 Argentinos Juniors 0.

FOOTBALL

FOR THE RECORD guesa Samista 2 Rio Branco 2, Connih-ans 0 Sao Paulo 3; Barbarense 0 Palme-ras 1; Guarani 1 Internacional Limeira 2.

"It's not the world to me."

FLORIDA: Honde Classic: Leading finel scores (United Status unites stated): 277: V Singh (Fij) 71, 69, 68, 69, 279:
P Stewer 70, 67, 72, 70, 280: E Booker 65,
68, 72, 77; D Durasky 70, 65, 75, 70, C
Franco (Par) 72, 68, 71, 69, M O'Meara 68,
70, 69, 73, 282: H Staton 64, 73, 76, 69, 17
72, 69; C Risey 69, 71, 72, 71, S Appelov (Aus) 69, 70, 69, 73, 286; C Risey 69, 71, 72, 71, S Appelov (Aus) 69, 70, 69, 72, 70, 72
72, 69; C Risey 69, 71, 72, 71, S Appelov (Aus) 69, 70, 69, 71, 72, 70, 72
73, 73, J Gollagher 72, 286; J Kaye 70, 72, 72, 71, J Cook 70, 69, 74, 72. P Stankowski 69, 67, 76, 73; S Pale 69, 70, 75, C Stadler 69, 69, 71, 76, B Gelberger 72, 56, 71, 76, 71, S T, 75, B Lughes (Aus) 67, 68, 70, 70, 70, 72, 73, 293; A Lyle (UB) 72, 71, 76, 74, 72, 73, 293; A Lyle (UB) 72, 71, 76, 74, PQA RANKINGS (United States unless

PGA RANKINGS (United States unless River Plate 2 Argentinos Juniors 0.

BRAZELIAN LEAGUE: Sentos 1 Matoncase 1: Mog Mirm () Portuguese 1: Portu(GB) 9.10; 7, V Singh (F-II) 8 70, 8, C Mont-

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday, March 20 Coupon no. Boure, result FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP 1 Arsenal v Covertry 2 Leeds v Derby 3 Noticm F v Middlesbro

4 South plan v Streff Wed2 5 West Ham v NewczsteX NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION 8 Samsley v Wolves 2 7 Bristol C v Bradford C 2 8 Crewe v Octord 9 Cristel P v Grimsby 1
10 Hudi Beld v Branchari 2
11 Norwich v Porismouth 2
12 QPR v Swindon 1
13 Shoff Utd v Port Vale 1

14 Stockbort v Tranmere 1

15 Watlord v Bury 1 16 West Brom v Ipswich X SECOND DIVISION 17 Chesterfield v Lulon 18 Fulham v Blackpool 19 Gaingham v Lincoln 20 North pion v Macclesi kt2 21 Oldham v Milwali 21 Cichiam v Minwai X. 22 Preschiny v Wycembe 1 23 Reading v Wycembe 1 24 Stoke v Notis County X. 25 Walsali v Bretol R. 25 Walsali v Bretol R. 25 Walsali v Bretol R. 27 York v Wigen 2 THIRD DIVISION 28 Cambron v Mansfield 1

42 Rangers v Dundae U 1 SCOTTISH LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION
28 Carticige v Mansfield 1
29 Carticide v Brentford X
30 Dartington v Southendot
31 Hertiepool v Brighton 1
32 Hull v Plymouth 1
33 Rochdale v Barnet 2
44 Cyclectars v Harmiton 1
26 Faller v Harmiton 1
37 Hull v Plymouth 1
38 Rochdale v Barnet 2
49 Cyclectar v Harmiton 1
48 Alica v Queen of SouthX

TREBLE CHANCE (home learns). Noting-hem Forest. West Ham, West Brommoh, Oldham. Stoke, Carlale, Darlington, Scurthorpe. Dundee, Alloe. HOMES: Arsenal, Leeds, Crewe, Warland, Gillingham, Reading, Hartlepool, Swansea, Torquay POED ODDS: Homes: Arsenal, Crewe, Harllepool, Swansée, Torquey. Awaye: Brrangham, Macclesheld, Wigan Drawe: West Ham, West Bromwich, Carliste BEST DRAWS: Notingham Foresi, West Ham, West Bromwich, Carlisle, Darlington AWAYS: Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Macdesfield, Wigan, Barnel,

43 Avr v St Mirren 44 Clydebenk v Rash 1 45 Fallerk v Hamilton 1 46 Hibernian v Artire 1 47 Stransacr v G Morton 2

34 Rotherham v Peterboro 1 35 Scunthorpe v Leyton OX 36 Shrewsbury v Chester 1

38 Torquay v Scarboro

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 39 Durdee v Hearts

40 Duni'mine v St Johnsi'ne2 41 Motherwell v Aberdeen1

FIRST DIVISION

37 Swansea v Haldax

■ Vince Wright

gomene (GB) 8 41; 8, N Price (Zm) 7.76; 10, J Leonard 7.51, 11, P Mickelson 7.29, 12, J Furyh 7.27; 13, F Couples 7.05, 14, M Osaki (Japan) 6.72; 15, J Magget 6.28, 16, S Elsungton (Aus.) 6.20, 17, D Clarke (GB) 5.73, 18, P Steward 5.75, 19, J Parney-ik (Swe) 5.57; 20, Lee Jarcen 5.0

k (Swe) 5.57: 20, Lee Jarcen 6.0
TUCSON, Artzone: Weisht's/Circle K
champlorethip: Leeding final scorete
(United States unless stated) 273: J Intser 68, 77, 69, 65, 274: D Pepcer 67, 69
69, 69 275: C Matthew (GE) 73, 59, 66,
68, 276: A Phos-Bunch 67, 71, 72, 66, 71
Green 68, 73, 67, 68, H Stacy 72, 68, 65,
70, N Scramon 70, 65, 71, 70, 277: K
Webb (Aus) 74, 69, 66, 66; H Alfredsson
(Swe) 69, 67, 73, 68, 276: M Redman 71,
69, 65, 73, D Eggeling 66, 67, 69, 74, 276:
A DeLuca 68, 74, 69, 68, 07, C Sorenslam
(Swe) 72, 70, 68, 69, 280: M Mation 70, 73,
68, 69, M Durn 73, 69, 69, 69, K Robbins (See) 72, 70, 68, 69 2888 M MARIOT 77, 70, 68, 69, M Durn 73, 69, 69, 69, K Robbins 72, 67, 70, 71, 7 Hanson 71, 67, 71, 71

Other scores: 2862 M McKey (GB) 73-71, 70-68 289: J Morley (GB) 72, 73, 72, 72, 72, L Davies (GB) 71, 71, 74, 73; S Lowe (GB) 72, 73, 70, 74

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL, LEAGUE (NHL): Nashville 3 Edmonton 1 Cheago 2 St Louis 5, Colora-do 1 Detroit 3, NY laizanders 2 NY Rangers 3 IOT)

SEKONDA PLAY-OFF CHAMPIONSHIP: Group A: Manchester Storm 4 London Knignis 1. Shetheld Steelers 3 Brachnet Bees 4 Group B: Carolit Devis 6 Ay Scot-tish Eagles 3. Newcastle Riverlangs 2 Not-tingham Parithers 3

LACROSSE

HIGH WYCOMBE: Under-19 Canada Tour: Wycombe Abbey School 15 Canada 4, Berkhamslead Collegiate 7 Canada 7

RUGBY UNION

WALES SQUAD (to face tray in Treaso March 30) S Howarth (Manchester Saire, G Thomas (Cardif), M Taylor (Swansca), S Gibte (Swansca) D James (Pontypodd), N Jackiens (Pomypodd), N Howley (Cardif), capi) P Rogers (London Irish), G Jaminin (Swansca), B Ewens (Swansca), C Quitmeli (Richmond), C Wyett (Lenell) C Charmis (Swansca) B Sinitians (Neath), S Cadamell (Lanell) N Walter (Richmond), D Llewelly in (Ebbr Vale), G Levits (Porsypid: M Voyle (Lanell), D Morris (Swansca), B Williams (Richmond)

SCOTLAND SQUAD (to tees treland at Murrayfield March 20): Gary Armstrong (Nestasie Falenns, Craig Chalmers (Eorinburgh Fewers), Jein Fairley (Edinburgh Revers) John Lastle (Sasow Caledonars) Kenny Logan (Wasper, Shaun Long-

WPBSA RANKINGS: 1, J Higgms (ScoT) 40,405prs 2 S Hendry (ScoT) 22 500 3, M Williams (Wales) 28,910, 4, R O Subran (Eng) 27,475 5, J Panon (Eng) 24,260 6, S Lee (Eng) 23,805 7, K Ocherty (Ire) 23,015, 8, A McMarus (Scot) 21,275, 9, M Slovens (Wales) 18,870, 10, P Hunter (Eng) 18,115 **SNOWBOARDING**

OLAND, Italy: World Cup event: Cross: 1. U Frigerios (Austra) 2. M Regier (Aus-rie) 3. J Jonsson (Swe) British placing: 5. L McKenna. Half-pipe: I. T Byrnes (US) 2. V Boudier (Fri 3. K. Stacey (US) British placing: 15, McKenna

VIENNA: Austrian Open: Men: Finel: S Handley (Engl b) M Firen (Aus) 17-14, 2-15, 9-15, 15-12, 15-8 TOULOUSE: Women's Open: Final: 1 Ma-ils. (Wales) bt S Shabena (Egypti 9-3, 7-9, 9-7, 9-7

TENNIS

INDIAN WELLS, Colliomia: Chemolons' Cup: Finat: M Philippoussic (Aus) bl C Moya (Sp) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 Moya (Sp) 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 HOLVPOHT: British Amesteur Singles Champjongships: Second round: J Snow by A Lumsden 6-2, 6-0, 6-0, C Danby bt H Edds 6-4, 2-6, 2-6, 5-1 J Achesson-Gray to B Feutle Bezadeu 6-1, 6-0, 6-0, N Loyd at N Pendingh w/o. M Ward bt P Miles 8-2, 6-4 6-4; R France bt J Penn 6-1, 6-3, 6-0; J Willocks bt S Barker w/o. Wildes bt Starter vio.

ATP RANKINGS: 1, C Mová (Spi 348-tats.
2 P Sampras (US) 3447, 3 Y Katerieco.
(BuS) 3382, 4 A Contrija (Spi 3550, 5 P.
Batter (Aus) 3115 6, 1 Hennran (GS) 2550.
7 R Krajock (Hod) 2577, 3 M Fros (Choe)
2434; 9, A Agoss (US) 2376, 10 T Matin
(US) 2300.

WITA RANKINGS: 1, M Higgs, Scott.

WITA RANKINGS: 1, M Higgs, Scott.

(US) 2300.

WTA RANKINGS: 1 M Hinds (Switz)
5,449 2 L Davenport (LS) 5,215 3 M Seles (US) 3,852 4 J Novotna (Ct) 3,755 5, A
Sanchez Vicano (So) 3,067 6, V Vicans
(US) 2,967, 7, S Graf (Gen 2,920 5 M
Peacle (Ft) 2,336 9 A Contrat (Sa) 2,123
10 N Tauzea (Ft) 2,109

CRICKET: AUSTRALIA ON BACK FOOT AS LARA SHAKES OFF DOUBTS OVER HIS CAPTAINCY.

West Indies are sunny side up

FROM PAT GIBSON IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA

THE morning haze had still not been burnt off the Blue Mountains that form the magnificent backdrop to Sabina Park here when Brian Lara was out yesterday, having added only one to his overnight 212 in the second Test aginst Australia, but the sun was shining again on West Indies cricket.

It is impossible to evaluate the long-term effect of argua-bly the greatest innings that even he has played but, for the moment, there was no doubt that it had lifted the mood of not only his West Indies team but also the entire Caribbean. Certainly no one was questioning his right to be captain any

Lara being Lara, he would have had his sights set on his Test-record 375, if not his highest first-class score of 501 not out, when he resumed his innings, so there was an overwhelming sense of anticlimax when he pushed forward to a fine ball from Glenn McGrath that pitched just outside off stump but straightened and gave Ian Healy, the wicketkeeper, his first catch of the

He had batted for 466 minutes, faced 344 deliveries and hit three sixes and 29 fours in a performance that made a mockery of what he is supposed to have said to Steve Waugh, the Australia captain. when he lost the toss.

Thank goodness I will not have to go through this again," Lara is purported to have said. We may never know whether he was expecting to be dismissed or planning to resign, but he had brought about such a transformation that the bookmakers' odds of 7-4 on an Australia win and 20-1 against West Indies at the start of the second day had changed to 8-1 against Australia and 15-8 on West

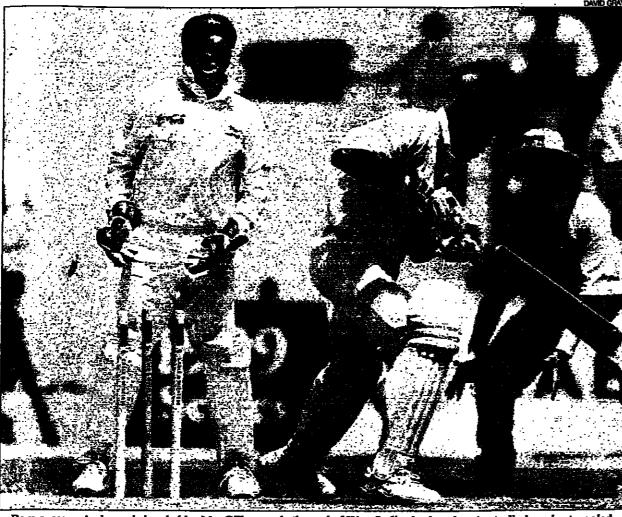
Indies by yesterday morning.

How much his batting means to his side was further emphasised when, starting with his dismissal, they lost their last six wickets for 54, but they still had a potentially decisive lead of 175 on a pitch beginning to misbehave.

Nor should the support that Lara received from Jimmy Adams, his supposed rival for the captaincy, in a record-breaking fifth-wicket stand of 322 be underestimated. As Lara was quick to point out: There is no doubt that, without Jimmy's help, it would not have been possible. He was really special.

Until the arrival of Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Adams had been regarded as the most reliable batsman in the West Indies, but his Test average, 86 in 14 Tests at the start of the last Australian series four vears ago, had dwindled to 51 in 33 at the start of this one. His cheekbone and his confi-

dence had been shattered on partnership of 73 with Sajee-



Rare success: Ambrose is bowled by MacGill towards the end of West Indies innings but Australia largely struggled

the 1995 tour of England, but he has never lost his love of batting. His patience and unselfishness perfectly complement-ed Lara's brilliant strokeplay.

it was a shame Adams was not rewarded with a century. He has not made one in Tests since his 208 not out against New Zealand in Antigua three years ago and he was still six runs short yesterday when he did not quite get across to a short, lifting ball from Mc-Grath and was caught in the

PAKISTAN carried off the

first Asian Test championship

in commanding style by beat-

ing Sri Lanka by an innings and 175 runs in the final at

Dhaka yesterday, completing

Sri Lanka, who resumed

their second innings at nine

for three, were bowled out for

188, but at 61 for seven they

were in danger of failing to

surpass their lowest Test score

of 71, made against Pakistan

Some lusty hitting by Upul Chandana and Hashan Tille-

keratne spared them that in-

dignity. Tillekeratne ending on 55 not out, having hit ten

fours. He shared a last-wicket

in Kandy five years ago.

victory with a day to spare.

gully. That gave McGrath his third five-wicket haul in successive Test innings.

Ridley Jacobs and Nehemiah Perry, the smiling Jamaican off spinner who is making his Test debut, added valuable runs before the leg spinners, Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill, finally got into the act. When Warne had Jacobs caught at mid-on, he was taking his first wicket in 58 overs since he dismissed England's Mark Butcher in the Sydney

Pakistan confirm status

as Asian champions

By Our Sports Staff

wa De Silva. Both Saqlain

Mushtaq, who finished with three for 46, and Arshad

Khan extracted turn and

bounce and Shaid Afridi, with

his quicker variety of leg

breaks, also gained some pur-

The Pakistan captain,

Wasim Akram, who on Sun-

day took his second hat-trick

Sri Lanka, was named man of

the series, in which India

were the third contestants.

liaz Ahmed, who scored a

consecutive Tests against

chase on a wearing pitch.

Test and MacGill was into his 21st over when he had Pedro Collins caught at slip.

MacGill went on to leave himself on a hat-trick by removing Curtly Ambrose with the last ball before lunch and Courtney Walsh with the first one afterwards, but by then West Indies, who had not made 300 in their previous 12 Test innings, had reached 431.

Not just the leg spinners struggled. Steve Waugh some-

Yesterday, Wasim made his

presence felt in the field. A

fine throw to run out Marvan

Atapattu broke the fourth-wicket partnership with Rus-

sell Arnold, who was then

picked up at slip by Wasim,

aiming a loose drive at

Lanka came when their bucca-

neering opening batsman.

Sanath Jayasuriya, injured

during the tour of Australia.

said that was he certain to be

fit for the World Cup,

although he will miss a three-

nations tournament in India.

Some consolation for Sri

ing, too, on the first occasion that he has been put under

pressure as captain. To add to his problems, the pitch that had played so well on the second day was beginning to crack and Ambrose and Walsh, who could not remember the last time they had been able to put their feet up for so long, were relishing the chance to prove that they are not finished yet.

Sure enough, in his first Walsh struck for his 409th Test wicket when Michael Slater, trying to cut, played on.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Imings 256 Waugh 100).

Total (2 wids, 21.5 owers) 38
FALC OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-36.
BOWLING: Ambrose 5-2-7-0; Weigh
7-1-15-1; Peny 8-3-7-1; Collins 3.5-0-10-0. WEST INDIES: First innings

D R E Joseph c Blewelt b McGraff P T Collins c M E Waugh b McGraff J C Adams c Eliot b MacGil † R D Jacobs c Bliot b Warne

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-5, 3-17, 4-34, 5-378, 6-398, 7-420, 8-427, 9-431.

BOWLING: McGrath 35-11-93-5; Gillespie 33-7-79-1; Warne: 30-8-84-1; MacGill 22-3-3-84-3; Blewett 10-1-48-0; M E Waugh 2-0-13-0.

maiden double-century to lay the foundation for Pakistan's "My recovery has been good and I can bat," Jayasurimatch-winning total of 594, was the man of the match. ya said, "but I don't know if I Umpires: P Wiley (England) and S A Bucknor. can field 100 per cent." Atherton and Thorpe lift

ENGLAND have been given a clean bill of health before they complete their preparations for the World Cup this summer by entering the Coca-Cola

Cure in Shariah next month. Doubts over Michael Atherton, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother and Ian Austin land facing the possibility of choosing replacements before their departure for the Lahore training camp on March 28.

treatment at Lilleshall while Austin, who underwent knee surgery last October, has also BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

England's cup plans

recovered. Fairbrother, his Lancashire team-mate, suffered hamstring trouble throughout the Carlton and United one-day tournament in

"We are pleased the fitness reports on the players are encouraging." David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said. "All of them need to continue to work on their overall fitness levels and they will do that before we depart for

Atherton and Austin will gain useful match practice on Lancashire's tour of South Africa, which began yesterday, but Fairbrother has stayed at home to exercise. Middlesex have signed

Mike Roseberry, their former bassman, from Durham. Roseberry, 32, had ten seasons at Lord's before leaving to captain his native county four уеагъ адо.

However, his career at Durham has been affected by loss of form and injury and he is leaving the club with two years of a six-year contract still to run.

South Africa's hopes of forcing victory over New Zealand on the final day of the second Test in Christchurch were dashed by the weather and the home side's opening batsmen.

Rain prevented any play until the afternoon and when the action did resume Matthew Horne and Bryan Young secured their side's survival with a stand of 107.

Mohammed Azharuddin, the world's most-capped oneday player, will captain India for the third consecutive time in the World Cup this summer. Sachin Tendulkar's back injury is causing concern, however, and the announcement of the India squad will be delayed until April 4.



TELEVISION CHOICE

Portrait of an icon

BBC2, 9.30pm

This portrait begins and ends with close-ups of Dr Greer dissecting a lump of raw liver into which she is pressing what turns out to be a lertility annulet. She-then photographs this rather bloody mess, hoping it will provide the cover for her new book. The Whole Woman. Her publishers are wary. Germaine Greer has moved on since the heady days of her feminist classic The Female Bonuch. When that appeared in 1971 it made her an icon, but now she looks back on those days with a kind of tender contempt. — laughing at old an icon, but now she looks back on those days with a kind of tender contempt. — laughing at old amateur films which show her not as a stern academic and critic but as a gorgeous, uninhibited clown. The subtitle of the new book is It's Time to Get Angry Again. "But." says Dr Greer, almost wistfully, "my aim is always the same — I want women to be happier than they are."

Acimal Hospital BBC1.8pm

A sixth series for this award-winner is no surprise. Animals — especially animals in trouble — are very often the answer to a network's prayer. They very often the answer to a network's prayer. They involve no salaries, no contracts, no royalties and yet they are the biggest audience-pullers in the business. So, welcome again to Putney Animal Hospital, to Rolf Harris, Shauna Lowry, Rhodri Williams et al. Tonight an underweight hedgehog has wandered in from a park, out of hibernation early because of the mild weather. Shauna accompanies it to Pickles, a hedgehog haven currently sheltering about 50 guests, many of which are soon to be returned to the wild.

The Football Millionaires BBC1, 10.30pm (Northern Ireland, il.20pm)

In Alan Hansen's day — the Liverpool star left the game in 1991 and is now a stalwart on Match of the Day — the clubs held all the power in contract negotiations. Today it's the players. The Newcastle striker and England captain Alan Shearer says: "There will never ever be a better time to be a



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Alan Hansen talks to soccer's superstars, such as David Beckham (BBCI, 10.30pm)

footballer." Well, in monetary terms, probably not. The cream of the younger stars turn out for Hansen (he speaks their language, after all), plus a scrum of agents, former players, managers and football-crazy youngsters. The lads are not the most scintillating of interviewees — but you can almost smell the money.

The Larry Sanders Show BBC2, 11.35pm

Sanders has a big hand in the writing and production of this series, so when he blasts away at corporate politicians in the television industry you feel he's nying to tell us something — or at least tell his American colleagues on the slippery slopes. In under half an hour this episode says more about the back-stabbing that goes on among agents, stars and studio bosses than many a more learned tract. The fun (and the Fwords) are still there but the underlying irony has a dying fall. It looks when the nun (and the F-words) are suit there but the underlying irony has a dying fall. It looks, when they strip him of his familiar on-set desk, as if Larry might be for the chop. So he jumps the gun and tells his loyal studio audience that he's going to leave anyway. Surely not. This may be the last of the present series but another is in the pipeline . . . isn't it?

Elizabeth Cowley

Afternoon Play: The Winter Journey

There has been a deal of welcome structural inno-

once bleak and uplifting it is really three perspectives on the same (true) story, by three writers. The linking strand is the three-year British expedition to Antarctica which set out in 1910. The play has

each of the men in turn reflecting on the journey.

the time spent in a stone igloo when their suppli-tent blew away and their return to base camp. Bu

other layers, such as the men's relationships with women, are explored and extracts from Hans Christian Andersen's The Snow Queen are woven into the narrative. Kenneth Cranham, David Rimoul and James Fleet star.

Peter Barnard

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00cm The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlock 7.55 My Ceraury 8.00 World News 8.05 Performance 8.20 Off the Sheft Enduring Love 8.35 Discovery 9.00 World News 9.05 The Moonstone 9.20 Junction Box 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 British Today 10.45 Good Books 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Ornobus 12.00 World News 2.05 Discovery 2.30 On Screen 3.00 World News 2.05 Discovery 2.30 On Screen 3.00 World News 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.16 Westway 3.30 Everynorman 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Megamix 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 3.00 World News 4.15 British Today 6.30 Ornikus 7.00 World News 7.05 Discovery 7.30 Human Remains 7.45 Off the Sheff: Enduring Love 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business; Report 9.20 British Today 9.30 Meriden Live 10.00 World News 11.05 Catlogk, 11.65 Insight 12.00 The World Today 12.30 Control Today 11.30 On Screen 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Margian Discovery 12.35 My Century 1.00 The World Today 12.30 On Screen 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Margian Biscovery 12.35 My Century 1.00 The World Today 13.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 3.00 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.00 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.00 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.00 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.00 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.00 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 9.00 World Today 9.00 The World Today 9.00 World Today 9.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Balley's Easier Breaklast. Sonthing music and

information updates 9.00 Michael Mappin, Includes the Heli of Fame Hour and CD of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests.

Jane Jones introduces listeners' levourite pieces of music 2.00pm Concerto. Viveldi (Cello Concerto in F mejor) 3.00 Jamie Culok. Includes information updates. Continuous

Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight, Sport

Cassics and Alamoon Homanoe 3.30 Newsinght. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Cassics at Seven. John Brunning introduces two hours of easy-listening sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Brahms (Tragic easy-listening sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Brahms (Tragic Eyymphony No 7 in A major); Handel (Water Music Suite No 1 in Finejor); 11.00 Mann at Night. Music and conversation through till the small hours with Alan Mann 2.00em Concerto. Vivalid (Callo Concerto to Executed 16.3 400 Metric Griffithe Introduced

(Cello Concerto In F mejor) (r) 3.00 Merk Griffiths. Introduces the Early Breeklast Show

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vation in the Afternoon Play slot and today's offering maintains that trend. The Winter Journey is a

Radio 4. 2.15pm

RADIO CHOICE

Face The Facts Radio 4, 8pm

Bells and whistles programming is all very well in its place but Face The Facts, returning for a new series, is a perfect example of how good radio can be when it is pared to the bone. I shall not dwell again on the tiresome decision to move the show to the evening schedule from its old slot at 9.05am. except to say that investigative journalism is thin enough on the ground without having this programme's audience reduced by a move to the evening. John Waite sets the tone he maintains the evenness of intonation usually associated with a Samaritan talking a man off a window-ledge and he pursues assorted snake-oil salesmen up stairs and down corridors with the measured relent-lessness of a tiger stalking an antelope.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Bell 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pen Mark Raddiffie 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamaco: The Evening Session 10.00 Digital Update 10.10 John Peat, Bornie Phrice Billy in

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewert 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bibs 8.00 Nigel Coden 9.00 Paddy in the Smoke, A look at the contributor the irish neve made to English life 10.00 The Directors: Neil Jorden 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00 Katrina Leskanich 3.00am Mo Dutta.

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday News 1.00pm The Challenham Fastival. Coverage and commentary from the opening day of the Netional Hurt lestival, including at 3.15 The Smurfit Chempion Hurdle 4.10 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Coverage of the night's action, including the second leg of the Usfa Cup quarter-linels 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

James 12.00 Crime Fighters 1.00pm Anne Resburn 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 The World of Formula 1 8.00 Cheating Hearts 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am James Merritt 4.30 Richard Allen

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny presents music and news, with a review of the National Theetre production of Trolius and Cresside

9.00 Masterworte with Peter Hobday, Wagner (Die, Meistersinger, Prefude to Act 1); Debussy (Cinq poemes de Baudetsire); Wagner (Parsital, Pretude to Act 1); Mozzat (Piano Concerto No 20 in Diminor, K468); Debussy (Fetes galantes, Set 1)

10.30 Artist of the Weets Gittlan Wetrill 11.00 Sound Stories: Medical Matters A look at Schumann's psychiatric problems

12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss

1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtishe Concert Nicholas Daniel, oboe, Julius Drake, plano. Harty (A la Campagne); John Gercher (Oboe Sonata No 2 in C); Julian Anderson (The Bearded Lady); Schumann, air Ferguson (Three Duce)

2.00 The BBC Orchestins BBC Nettonel Orchestra of Wales under Tadaaki Otaka, Paul Mann and Mark Wigglesworth, Paul Watkins, cello. Dvorak (Camival Overture; Symphony No 7 in D minor); Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D)

4.00 Volces: Schrübert Volces (r)

(Symphony No 2 in D)
4.00 Voices: Schubert Voices (r)
4.45 Retriet Machine Tommy Pearson continues his look at chamber music

5.00 in Tune Sean Rafferty introduces live music from Monica Hugget's ensemble Sonnerie
7.30 Performance on 3 Chris de Souza introduces the

second of lour concerts given by the Borodin

Quartet at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristot.
Brahms (String Quartet No 2 in A minor, Op 51 No
2); Tchaikovsky (String Quartet No 2 in F, Op 22)
9.00 Postscript: The Pas de Deux (2/5)
9.20 Nash Ensemble under Mertyn (Brabbins, Ian
Brown, plano, Rosemary Hardy; soprano.
Beethoven (Trio in B flat, Op 11); Berg, arr de
Leauw (Seven Early Songs); Mahler (Des knaben 1)
Wunderhorn); Strauss (Suite for 13 Wind
Instruments, Op 4)
10.45 Night Waves How does public space improve the
life of those who live in cities? Richard Coles
examines the meaning, function and importance
of our urban social spaces

of our urban social spaces

11.30 Jazz Notes Ahmet Eregun, the founder of Atlantic Records, tells Alyn Shipton about his

Atlantic Records, tells Alyn Shiption about his passion for jazz.

O Composer of the Week: Delius (r)

Oam Through the Night 1.00 Musica Antiqua Koln and director Reinhard Goebel perform music from 17th-century northern Europe 2.15 Beethoven (Piano Sonata in A flat, Op 110) 2.40 Corelli (Trio Sonata in A minor, Op 1 No 4 2.45 Chopin (Andente spianato and Grande polonaise brilliante) 3.00 Schools: Playtime 3.15 Time to Move 3.35 Let's Make a Story 3.50 Drama Workshop 4.10 in the News 4.30 Hop. Skip and Jump 4.45 Anns a' bhad 5.00 Chopin (Ballade No 2 in F. Op 38) 5.15 Weber (Clarinet Outritet in B flat, Op 34) 5.45 Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in G)

RADIO 4

5.36am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today News and issues in rural Britain, presented by Astriey Getting 8.00 Today with James Naughtie and Sue MacGregor 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Update on political developments 9.00 Unreliable Evidence The mysteries of the legal system, explored with the aid of expert guests 9.30 Home Thoughts Nick Barker concludes his serves about ex-pat magazines and newspapers, looking at the Asian weekly Eastern Eye (5/5) 9.45 (LW) Daily Services 9.45 (FM) Services

9.45 (LW) Serial: Letters from My Windmill Stephen
Fry reads extracts from My Windmill Stephen
Fry reads extracts from Alphonse Daudet's
reflectors on his spritual love affair with Provence
10.00 Women's Hour with Martina Kearney
11.00 Nature The tragile balance of nature which exists
on isolated stands — a balance invariably
jeopardised by hurnan exploitation (f)
11.30 Chambers John Fuller-Carp finds himself
attracted to one of his citeria. John Bird and
James Fleet star (2/4)
12.90 (LW) News Headtines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Topical
consumer news and investigations, presented by
Mark Whittaker and Trace Rawfinson
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 The Missical Side of the Family The Rt Rev
Brian Hannon of Clogher talks about the
challenges of having a rock ster son (2/6)
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Winter Journey Tale of an
Antarctic expectition to study penguin embryology.
Written by Patricia Hanneh, G.W. Fraser and
Misma Buff. See Choice
3.00 The Exchange: 0870 010 0444 Peter White
Invites interest views on a topical issue

3.30 Carnival Tales Mark Rickards gatecrashes the party in Recite, Brazil (2/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 52 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Learning Curve The Times columnist Libby Purves joins a "poetry contessional" in Leeds
4.30 Shop Talk Business matters
5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Clare English
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Mammour The Mantinon Corporation leunches a propaganda offersive against the euro (5/6)
7.00 The Archers Marjorie learns that she has only eight months left
7.15 Pront Row The live nightly arts programme, presented by Mark Lawson
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Environmental drama, starting an Pepperell. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (r)
8.00 Face the Facts New series. See Choice
8.40 In Touch Peter Writte presents news for visually impaired people
9.00 Virus: the Unissen Enemy James Ertichman investigates the policics of disease, locusing on the lack of a vaccine for HIV (3/4)

9.00 Virus: the Unseen Enemy James Enichmen investigates the politics of disease, locusing on the lack of a vaccine for HIV (334)
9.30 Unreliable Evidence Broadcast earlier (/)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Strait is the Gate Abridged version of Anché Gide's story (2/5) (r)
11.00 News 11.05 Late Night on 4: Do Ge On Comic conversations, with Anteley Elict, Jeff Dodman, Griff Rhys Jones and Graeme Gerden (2/3)
11.30 (FM) Today in Parliament Political update
11.30 (FM) Tailding Pictures Wesley guide to films and film-going, with Brian Sibley
12.00 News 12.30 km The Late Book: The Mask of Command Tim Pigott-Smith reads part two of

Command Tim Pigoth Smith reads part two of John Keegan's account of leadership styles (f) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.5-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-902. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW-198 (12.45-5.55am); CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio Estings compiled by Perry Claveland-Peck, last Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and

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DOWN'S SYNDROMF ANOXIATION Registration (se 0400.30)

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after recent injuries left Eng-But Atherton and Thorpe, both of whom were troubled by back injuries in Australia this winter, have had intensive

Australia.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45 HAWKSHAW

(c) A detective. The eponym of the detective in The Ticket-of-Leave Man (1863), a play by Tom Taylor, English dramatist (1817-1880). Also in the comic strip Hawkshaw the Detective, by Gus Mager, American cartoonist (died 1956). "He didn't even whimper when the village hawkshaw snappoed the bracelets on

(c) A breed of sheep. Also its fur or wollen fabric made from it. The adult wild moufflon is in its proportions but little in advance of the improved Suffolk lamb."

(b) The collecting of bank-notes as a hobby. The nota- is Latin, the-phily is Greek. The Times, 1973: "Collectors have coined the ugly name notaphilists to describe themselves. About 20 of the highest-denomination notaphilists came to the auction."

(c) A richly coloured variety of golden beryl found in South West Africa. The Greek words mean sun gift. "Heliodor is found only on the barren slopes of Rossing Mountain. Apparently it does not exist anywhere else in the world. German prospectors discovered the first deposit, and the lovely greenish-yellow opales cent stones were set in the form of a cross."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE 1 Rxe4! fxe4 2 Be5+! dxe5 3 Qxe5+ Kg8 4 d6+ and the black queen



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Fame beckons for a bunch of nickers

on-the-wall series Jailbirds (BBCI), to shatter our assumptions about what life inside a women's prison is like. But that didn't make it any less of a shock - especially for those of us who have tackled insomnia by watching late-night reruns of Prisoner: Cell Block H — to discover that women's jails are built every bit as solidly as men's prisons.

Apparently it is not normal for cell walls in women's prisons to wobble whenever the cell door is slammed shut by a warder, as happens in Cell Block H's Wentworth. Nor, so far, have we seen anyone who mirrors the sadistic Wentworth warder Vera "Vinegar Tits" Bennett, as she was known to the inmates. If Terrill - who also made The Cruise - manages to turn Jailbirds into even one-tenth as big a cult as Prisoner Cell Block H became (in Los Angeles, the

ou can't blame Chris Terrill for wanting to use his fly-that anguished lesbians marched and mourned when lesbian biker Franky Doyle died in an attempted escape), he'll have an enormous hit on his hands. The star? It's too early to tell, after just one episode. But maybe the 27-year-old heroin addict Toni will be the one who gets catapulted to fame by Jailbirds, the way Jane, the cabaret singer was by The Cruise.

Toni Barker arrived at New Hall Prison in Yorkshire with an 18-month sentence (doesn't New Hall sound so like an Oxbridge college? You feel people should be arriving at New Hall with a sentence, and be assigned a room overlooking a quad rather than

overlooking an exercise yard).
Toni was caught in possession of heroin. For all her granite-hard façade, she soon turns out to be more wobbly even than the studio sets of Prisoner Cell Block H. Within two days she has to be cut down from a noose. And there are plenty like her. Mike Goodwin, New Hall's Governor, says Britain's female prison population is soaring, "and we don't really know why".

hat we do know is that, on average, one in 800 of the general population will do some harm to themselves. Among women prisoners, it's one in four. But almost more jolting than seeing Toni's traumatic initiation was overhearing another fresh arrival making her first phone call. "Listen," she says, matter-of-factly, when someone answers at the other end, "I've been remanded, orright? Till the 28th of this month. You gonna come and see me, yeah? The information was imparted with no more drama that you'd invest in a call home to tell your partner that you're going to be late home from the office, so the movie will have to



Joe



wait for another night, orright? This woman had shoplifted £375 worth of underwear from Bhs. This crime would seem more fathomable if you could imagine

even one reason why any person would want or need £375 worth of Bhs underwear. The impression she gave was that she does this sort of thing regularly. Surely there can't be a black market for Bhs knickers, can there? How

can you stoop in the world of petty larceny (or even petticoat larceny)? Do thieves dream of being Raffles the way teenage writers dream of being Bellow, and then slowly acknowledge defeat, admitting to themselves, as the years pass, that they'll never rise much above pilfering chain-store hosiery - the Mills and Boon of crime?

But if it's one thing to pinch panties, it's quite another to shoot people — which is something you can do quite legally if you join the right organisations. While all the men in Nick O'Dwyer's Cutting Edge. Shot (Channel 4) who had shot somebody — a former soldier, a policeman — made killing sound like a gruesome but sometimes necessary job, they couldn't suppress a hint of smugness that made you feel that somewhere in their brains a little, macho, do-ya-feel-luckypunk voice was punching the air and yelling "Yessss! I've done it.

much lower than knicker-stealing and you haven't" It was no brains out quite like that. And you surprise to find that none of the chooters was a woman.

> t's not that O'Dwyer - who interlaced his film with seductive, slow-motion, black-andwhite footage of guns being loaded, triggers being cocked, chambers rotating - was setting out to make guns sexy: he was just acknowledging that, to many men, they clearly are extraordinarily alluring. A French Foreign Legion-naire, who once shot off a man's face, tells us that a gun "should be horrific, but it isn't. It's interesting and I don't know why."

An arms dealer confesses that "to my mind, it's almost a work of art", before explaining what this work of art does: "Imagine somebody standing over you, with a ton weight just above your head, and dropping it — that's about the sort of effect it would have." Even Jack-son Pollock's art doesn't blow your

can slip into killing so easily. "I wanted adventure," said the former Legionnaire, who was bored with his life in London's East End. "It was as simple as that." His family had been hoping he'd become something in telecoms. Perhaps he's now found a way of combining the two careers ("If you want to shoot a soldier, please press One: to kill a criminal, press Two; to shoot a civilian, press Three; if you have a preference for which rifle. please press Four ...").

The gulf between what was, and what might have been, was also the mainspring of Tony Grounds's mesmerising Births, Marriages and Deaths (BBC2), which came to an end last night with Ray Winstone's Alan finally having shattered the happiness of every man, woman and child who fell in with him. Basically, life is nothing more than Russian roulette: and the Alans are the loaded chamber.

BBC1

- 6.00em Business Breakfast (36326) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (72055) 9.00 Kilroy (i) (2566719) 9.45 Wipeout (4206484)
- 10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7455158) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (3008245) 11.00 Change That (3018622) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3915581)
- 11.55 News; Weather (T) (7973719) 12.00 Call My Bluff (49622) 12.30pm Top Tip Challenge (r) (4549177)
- 12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53683177) 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (75142) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (59432852) 4.40 Neighbours (T) (35572210) 2.05 Ironside (r) (5793055)
- 2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (9379697) 3.30 Children's BBC: Playdays (9695500) 3.45 Enchanted Lands(5057603) 3.55 Hububb (9787535) 4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (5449806) 4.35 The Really Wild Show (3913056) 5.00 Newsround (4678581) 5.10 Grange Hill (9372968)
- 5.33 Rewind (T) (650149) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (479264) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (871) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (351) 7.00 Holiday (T) (1448)
- 7.30 EastEnders Peggy enters hospital for her mastectomy (T) (535)



A new series with Phodri Williams

- 8.00 CROICE Animal Hospital New senes, from the RSPCA's Putney Hospital (T) (4968) 8.30 The Nick Sankha Guha meets a
- convicted lawbreaker to find out about the criminal mind (T) (9603) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Weather (T) (1239) 9.30 Jailbirds Docusoap tracing life in a women-only prison (2/10) (T) (81142)
- 10.00 Men Behaving Badly Gary takes a trip down memory lane (r) (T) (40351) 10.30 CHOICE The Football Millionaires got too much power? (T) (567448)
- 11.20 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia The sights and sounds of Melbourne (4/8) (r) (T) (223887) 12.00 On the Waterfront (1954) Gritty multi-Oscar-winning drama, with Marlon Brando and Eva Marie Saint. Directed by Вы Каzал (Т) (474291)
- 1.45am Weather (1207253) 1.50 BBC News 24 (93504217)

WALES: 6.30pm-7.00 Wales Today (T) (351) 9.30 Week in Week Out (81142) 10.00 Jailbirds (2/10) (T) (40351) 10.30 Men Behaving Badty (r) (T) (53871) 11.00 The Football Millionaires (T) (258968) 11.50 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia (4/8) (r) (T) (485210) 12.30am FiLM: On the Waterfront (T) (243543) 2.15 News (T) (9587611) 2.20-6.00 BBC News 24 (58595017)

- 7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Pingu 7.05 Teletubbies 7.30 Snorks 7.50 Blue Peter 8.50 Pingu 9.00 German Globo 9.10 Working It Out 9.25 Music Makers 9.45 Numbertime 10.00 Teletubbies 10.30 Watch 10.45 Science Zone 11.05 Space Ark 11.15 Megameths 11.35 Words and Pictures 11.50 D-Mag 12.10pm English Express 11.50 D-Mag 12.10pm English
 Express 12.30 Working Lunch 1.00
 Oakie Doke War Watks (2/6) (r) (1) 1.40
 Hart-Davis on History 2.10 Awash with
 Colour 2.40 News; Weather (7) 2.45
 Westminster (1) 3.25 News; Weather (1)
 3.30 The Village (r) 3.55 Kaye 4.25
 Ready, Cook (1) 4.55 Esther (1)
 5.30 Mitors House? 5.30 Whose House?
- 6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Cornedy, stamng Will Smith (r) (T) (322158)
- 6.25 Heartbreak High Nat decides to leave home (T) (499581) 7.10 The O Zone Interviews with Cher and Ian McCulloch (T) (257210)
- 7.30 From the Edge Kim Tserkezie lests theatres' facilities for the deaf (1) (177) 8.00 House Proud Jan Tempest's Portakabin
- is almost complete (3/4) (T) (5210) 8.30 Your Money or Your Life Sound finance advice for a student in debt and a couple struggling to pay for their retirement holiday (7) (7245)
- 9.00 Home Front in the Garden Diamuid Gavin helps a woman to realise her dream of more privacy (T) (2581)



A profile of the feminist writer Germaine Greer (9.30pm)

- 9.30 CHOICE Close Up: Germaine Greer An absorbing portrait of the influential writer (5/7) (T) (112564) 10.20 Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework Obsessives (T) (235719)
- 10.30 Newsnight (611910) 11.08 Video Nation Shorts (723734)
- 11.10 Seinfeld Jerry's parents move in with Elaine (T) (106516) 11.35 CROICE The Larry Sanders Show is
- looking bleak (T) (807413) 11.55 Weather (315142) .12.00 Despatch Box With Andrew Neil (20833) 12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University Communications, Money and Work 1.30 Catalysts Against Poliution
- 2.00 Schools Science Seeing Through Science 4.00 Languages: Make German Your Business Part One 5.00 Business and Training: Career Moves— Telecommunications 5.45 Open University: The Emergence of Greek Mathematics 6.10 The Census 6.35 The Statistician Strikes Back

WALES 6.25pm Turning Points (687622) 6.30 From the Edge (T) (993) 7.00 FAW Premier Cup (12620581) 9.20 House Proud (3/4) (T) Garden (T) (472993)

- 5.30am ITV Morning News (45516) 6.00 GMTV (5720177) 9.25 Trisha (T) (8952606) 10.30 This Morning (T) (44494500)
- 12.15pm HTV News (T) (4982142) 12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (1) (4534245) 12.55 Shortland Street (9898055) 1.30 Home and Away Maniyn gets a surprise (T) (35674622)
- 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (9288546) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2562054) 3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4633239) 3.15 HTV News (T) (4625210)
- 3.20 CITV: Mopetop's Shop (4719603) 3.30 Rosie and Jim (9779516) 3.40 The Wombles (9686852) 3.55 Rupert (4424264) 4.15 Mike and Angelo (5433245) 4.40 How 2 (3395595) 5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (3852)
- 5.30 WEST: Can You Keep a Secret? Local youngsters spring surprises unsuspecting adults (2/7) (T) (326) SUMMES 5.30 WALES: Night Owls (T) (326) 5.58 HTV Crimestoppers (800662)
- 5.59 HTV Weather (800662) 6.00 HTV News (T) (239) 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (1) (719) 7.00 Emmerdale Marion puts Biff on the spot
- 7.30 WEST: West Eye View Report on the state of the region's rallways as complaints reach an record high (603) 7.30 WALES: High Performance Ron Davies's views on the Welsh assembly
- (2/6) (T) (603) 8.00 Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?



Julie Bramail and Ben Miles star as a couple facing a tough choice (9pm)

- 9.00 Peak Practice Sam gets emotionally involved in the heartrending case of a pregnant cancer sufferer who refuses to endanger her unborn child by undergoing treatment (T) (7719)
- 10.00 Wonderful You Clare gets a proposition (2/7) (T) (2846) 11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (113806) 11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (482595)
- 11.30 The Big Match: FA Cup Highlights Highlights of Bamsley v Spurs (74245) 12.30am The Big Match: Champions' League Special Preview of tomorrow's quarter-linal second-legs (28938) 1.00 The Haunted Fishtank The irreverent TV new with Ed Hall (47659)
- 1.30 Airwolf (r) (6204543) 2.25 Judge Judy Real-life court cases; ITV News Headlines (9198475) 2.50 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (8682659) 3.15 Dead Men's Tales The story of mountain climber Doug Scott's struggle to survive the ill-fated ascent of the Core

in Pakistan (r); News Headlines (94036)

3.45 Football Extra Highlights (r) (9169475) 4.40 Coach (59275291) 5.00 ITV Nightscreen (51794)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather (7120210)
- 12.55 Home and Away (4542264) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4114158) 2.10-2.40 Heart of the Country (56453806) 3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (4625210) 5.30 Shortland Street (326) 6.00-6.30 Central News at Sb; Weather
- 7.30-8.00 30 Minutes (603) 11.20-11.30 Central News: Weather (482595) 1,30-2,30am Highlander (62562) 2.30 Wish You Were Here? (42253)
- 3.00 Dead Men's Tales (12110098) 3.25 Football Extra (1397659) 4.25 Central Jobfinder '99 (3383659) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3277494)
- WESTCOUNTRY As HTV West except: 12.15pm Westcountry (4982142) (7218429) 12.27-12.30 12.55-1.25
- 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4114158) 2.10-2.40 Home and Away (T) (56453806) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (4625210) 4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7804061) 5.30 Our House (T) (326) 6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (T) (239) 7.30-8.00 Stranger than Fiction (3/6) (T) (603) 11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (482595)

MERIDIAN

- As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (4982142) 5.30 Surprise Chefs (9/10) (326) 6.00-6.30 Meridian (701061) 7.30-8.00 The Plain (1/4) (r) (T) (603) 11.20-11.30 Meridian News; Weather (T) (482595) 5.00am-5.30 Freescreen (T) (51794)
- ANGLIA
- As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7212245) 12.20-12.30 Anglia News ther (7120210) 5.25-6.00 About Anglia (8014332) 6.00-6.30 Anglia News (1) (239) 7.30-8.00 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner (3/13) (603) 11.19 Anglia Air Watch (615974) 11.20-11.30 Anglia News and

546

Starts: 6.00em Sesame Street (r) (88762852) 7.00 The Big Breeklast (67715581) 9.00 Ysgollon: Science in Focus (29148332) 9.20 What the Papers Sald (29708887) 9.30 Eureka (74076177) 9.45 Addysg Rhyw (74064332) 10.00 The Number Crew (14011603) 10.10 TVM (91747968) 10.25 How We Used to Live (91822603) 10.45 Worlds of Faith (96112887) 11.00 First Edition (15982448) 11.15 Stage One (15892871) 11.30 Powerhouse (I) (68230061) 12.00 same Street (T) (97026429) 12.30pm Planed Plant (1) (26844974) 1.00 The Afternoon Line (67725968) 1.30 The Cheltenham Festival (64018061) 4.30 Rick Chemerinam Festivat (640/80/61) 4.30 Fichal Lake (1) (67059871) 5.00 Planed Plant (90041697) 5.30 Countdown (1) (67146351) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (1) (93399784) 6.10 Heno (1) (86952887) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (1) (90127061) 7.30 Newyddion (1) (67050500) 8.00 Y Sloe Gelf (1) (90030561) 8.30 Pengelli (T) (90122516) 9.00 Tair Chweer (r) (37374622) 10.00 Brookside (T) (72689974) 10.35 Queer as Folk (4/8) (T) (52134968) 11.15 The 11 O'Clock Show (38366993 11.45 Boyz Unflimited (6/6) (T) (38365264) 12.15am The Cheltenham Festival (51773833) 12.45 Thomas Country (T)

- CHANNEL 4 6.00am Sesame Street (r) (25264) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (61993) 9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (4259581) 9.20 What the Papers Said (879997)
 9.30 Eureka (8644871) 9.45 Stop, Look,
 Listen (8649326) 10.00 The Number
 Crew (5960142) 10.10 TVM (9910516)
 10.25 How We Used to Live (9922351)
- 10.45 Worlds of Faith (9189055) 11.00 First Edition IV (3053784) 11.15 Stage One (3149535) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8142) 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (32332)
- 12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (67516) 1.00 The Afternoon Line Racing tips (68852) 1.30 The Cheltenham Festival Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.00 Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle, 2.35 Guinness Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase, 3.15 Smurfit Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy and the 3.55 William Hill National
- Hunt Handicap Chase (543055) 4.30 Countdown (T) (3003622) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5048413)
- 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (968) 6.00 Dishes Dating show with a culinary theme (T) (581) 6.30 Home Improve ent Brad's enthusiasm
- for his new job impresses proud parents Tim and Jill (T) (531) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (536871)
- 7.55 Bodyscapes A close-up look at shaving (T) (594993) 8.00 Brookside Nikki comes clean about Ryan (T) (3806)
- 8.30 Classic British Cars The Impact of the car on British families during the 1950s, when the first easily affordable models became available (4/8) (T) (9413) 9.00 The Coroner The decomposing body of
- an elderly woman is found in a top-floor flat, her death having gone unnoticed for eks (5/5) (T) (8061) 10.00 Father Ted A feminist singer takes over
- Ted's house (r) (T) (33061)

 10.30 Queer as Folk Stuart and Vince meet Phil's grieving mother at his funeral, as well as some old friends (1) (182806)
- 11.10 The 11 O'Clock Show Satincal comedy with lain Lee (846622) 11.40 The Cheltenham Festival With Lesley



Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie in Nicolas Roeg's drama (12.15am)

- 12.15am Don't Look Now (1973) Eerie drama. about a couple (Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie) who become involved in a series of bizarre incidents after travelling death (T) (383475)
- 2.10 The Rosary Murders (1967) A priest (Donald Sutherland) seeks out a ruthless murderer targeting members of the cloth. Mystery thriller directed by Fred Walton (T) (653833) 3.55 Um Cinematic poem about a woman's
- dreams of love (73281272) 4.00 Schools: Quest (81594776)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00am 5 News and Sport (5109662) 7.00 WideWorld Part 18. A look at the work of the Co-operative Women's Guild (r) (T)
- (8994535) 7.30 Milkshake! (2419061) 7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4498790)
- 8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2548413) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (2547784) 9.00 Instant Gardens (6/14) (r) (T) (5210451) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r)
- 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (1536531) 10.20 Sunset Beach (1) (3467974)
- 11.10 Leeza (7719023) 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2541500)
 12.30pm Family Affairs Gabby and Declan get intimate (r) (T) (1092622)
- 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Dylan is turned down (T) (8993806) 1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment, music and chat with the outrageous comedian; 5 News Update (1091993)
- 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9970622) 2.30 Good Afternoon (1405210)
- 3.30 Destination America (TVM 1987) A blue-collar worker is suspected of murdering his estranged upper-class father. Drama, staming Bruce Greenwood and Rip Tom, Directed by Corey Allen (T) (8794603)
- 5.25 5 News (83242582) 5.30 100 Per Cent (2217790)
- 6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (2214603)
- 6.30 Family Affairs Siobhan returns to Chamham (T) (2132055)
- 7.00 Knight Rider Adventure series, starring David Hasselhoff as Michael Knight, a hi-tech vigilante battling to protect the innocent from crooks with the help of his talking car (r) (9878210)
- 7.30 Natural Passions Documentary about women who have dedicated their lives to escuing animals (T) (2138239) 8.00 Crime Report The case of the prison officer Peter Curran, whose body was
- found in his car in a dramage ditch, months after his disappearance in the wake of an IRA breakout at Whitemoor Prison (4/6) (9967158) 8.30 Bug Alert!: What's the Story? The problems that experts predict will plague the country if the so-called millennium
- Bug strikes. Vanessa Collingridge also investigates some of the latest insects to have established themselves in Britain: 5 News Update (9979993) 9.00 Once a Thief (1991) John Woo's action-packed comedy thriller, starring Chow Yun Fat and Leske Cheung as
- inept thieves and their attempts to steal a priceless painting. With Cherne Chung. Directed by John Woo (T); 5 News Update (49018245) 10.40 Love Street Erotic short starring Dana
- Waters (1492784) 11.20 Two Gus protects a woman from her abusive husband (5473784)

- 12.15am The Jack Docherty Show With Graham Kelly (1562543) 12.55 Live and Dangerous All-night sports magazine (89467098) 3.45 Asian Football Show (7351949)
- 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7832562) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8513369)
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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL



- 5KY ONE

 7.00sm Court Duclula (98061) 7.30 The Chris Evans Breaklast Show (91790) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (87806) 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (18005) 10.00 The Oprah Winriey Show (99992) 11.00 Gallyl (93515) 12.00 Jenny Jones (22413) 1.00pm Mod About You (97321) 1.30 Joopan Mod About You (97321) 1.30 Joopan (15177) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (88142) 3.00 Jenny Jones (17061) 4.00 Gulayl (30998) 5.00 Sar Trek Voyager (2719) 8.00 America's Dumbest Criminala (9351) 6.30 Dream Team (9513) 7.00 The Smpsons (9448) 7.30 The Smpsons (9488) 8.00 Resule Medics (9698) 8.30 Corport (1803) 9.00 Word's Wildest Police Videos (61326) 7.30 Trek Criminal (9413) 11.00 Boody Foregraps (94413) 11.00 Familia (1932) 11.30 Star Trek Voyager (99332) 12.30sm The Comment (56962) 1.30 Long Pay (8884007)
- SKY BOX OFFICE Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any tim receptione 0390 800888 SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) Fallen (1997) Siny 30x OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)

Sky BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)

- Double Yeam (1997) SKY PREMIER SKY PREMIEH

 6.00sm The Lies He Told (1996) (39177)
 8.00 An American Tall St. Flevel Goes
 West (1991) (73354) 10.00 House Arrest
 (1996) (18261) 12.00 The Drectors. Joel
 Schumacher (11351) 1.00pm Hollywood
 Schumacher (11351) 1.00pm Hollywood
 Schumacher (11351) 1.00pm Hollywood
 (1996) (59538) 4.00 An American Tall It.
 Flevel Goes West (1991) (9893) 6.00
 House Arrest (1996) (65871) 8.00 Well
 Street (1997) (335544) 11.40 Never Talk
 Monty (1997) (335544) 11.40 Never Talk
 to Strangers (1995) (430790) 1.10em The
 Sheltering Sky (1996) (47450534) 2.30
 The War of the Roses (1999) (581746)
- SKY MOVIEMAX Dem Desperate (1947) (64719) 7.00 A Horiday for Love (1996) (16413) 9.00 Spiceworks: The Movie (1997) (82159) 11.00 Laura Lensing Stept Here (TVM

- SKY CINEMA
- 4.00pm Advises and Consent (1982) (1785413) 6.20 Destination Moon (1959) (9366448) 8.00 A Touch of Larceny (1959) (2336397) 10.00 Going My Way (1944) (12337730) 12.05em No Way to Treat a Lady (1988) (8568745) 1.55 The Effect of Gamma Rays on Mark-In-the-Moon Martgolds (1972) (4962562) 3.40 Seven Days' Lazve (1942) (20683253) FILMFOUR _ 6.00pm Journey to the Centre of the Earth (1959) (93-481730) 8.10 Tin Men Earth (1959) (33-87.70) & 10 Tin Men (1967) (360351) 10.05 The Pillow Book (1995) (82575326) 12.15 m Heles Pour Mol (1993) (550012) 1.25 Northing Personal (1996) 4391036, 3.20 Cal (1964) (18826185) 6.00 Close
- 8.00pm Fame (1980) (63103784) 11.30 Ada (1961) (94182577) 1.45am The Hun-ger (1963) (23332036) 3.30 Village of the Damned (1960) (82372291) 5.00 Close
- SKY SPORTS 1 7.00em Sports, Centre 7.15 V-Mo 7.45 Total Sport 8.15 You're On Say Sports' 9.00 Racrig News 9.30 Acrobics 10.00 Luague Rogew 11.00 Table Terms 12.00 4-crobics 12.30pm Total Sport 1.00 Sportsh Fronticil 12.90pm Total Sport 1.00 Sports Frostoal
 2.30 League Review 3.30 V-Max 4.00
 Sports Unfirmled 5.00 Wrestlang 5.00
 Sports Centre 6.30 Insolo Scottish Footbal
 7.30 Fastrax 8.00 Premier Shooker League
 10.00 Sports Centre 10.15 You're On Sky
 Sports J 11.00 Insolo Scottish Footbal
 12.00 Sports Centre 12.15am You're On
 Sky Sports 1.00 Premier Shooker League
 3.00 Sports Centre 3.15 Code
 12.00 Sports Centre 3.15 Code SKY SPORTS 2
- Ctub 11.00 Close **CARLTON SELECT** 7.00mm Acrobics 7.30 Sports Centre 7.45 Racing News 8.15 Moto-Plus 8.45 Sports Centre 9.00 Fish TV 10.00 International

- Bowls 12.00 Warld Malor Sport 3.00pm Live Cricket 10.00 Table Termis 11.00 Spors Unlimited 12.00 Snowboarding 12.30em Fastiax 1.00 Football A Cup Sports 2.30 Sports Contre 2.45 Close
- SKY SPORTS 3 12.00am Wresting 1.00pm Fish TV 2.00 Vernderful World of Golf 3.00 Golden Age of Motor Racing 3.30 Bowls 5.30 Fastra 6.00 Table Terms 7.00 World Motor Sport 6.00 Football FA Cup Special 11.30 Cose
- EUROSPORT 7.30am Adventure 8.00 Cari 9.30 Wom-en's Bathlon 11.00 Europosis 12.30 Snow-toarding 1.00 Dog Sed Rocing 1.30 Snocker 3.00 Ten-Pin Bowling 4.00 Euro-gosis 6.30 Stock Car 8.45 Strongesi Man 7.45 Bourg 8.45 Live Football 10.45 Live Football 12.00 Raily 12.30am Close
- UK GOLD 7.00am Crossrodds 7.30 Neighbours 7.55
 EastEndars 8.30 The Bit 9.30 Price and
 Projudice 10.30 Priced at 11.00 Dates 11.85
 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00
 Judet Brace 2.00 Dates 2.95 The Bit 3.55
 EastEnders 4.30 Rhods 5.00 All Creatures
 Const. 6.00 Pricedby 7.00 East Great and Small 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 Ever Decreasing Carcles 7.40 Dad's Army 8.20 The Bridge Empire 9.00 Red Dwarf 9.40 Crate Inveter 10.45 Sugs 11.50 The But 12.50am Blackaddor the Third 1.25 French and Saunders 2.00 Dangerfield 3.00 Shopping with Screenshop
- **GRANADA PLUS** 6.00am When These Walls 7.00 Holding the Fort 7.30 Octd Couple 8.00 Hallelugh 8.30 The Many Vives of Patrick 9.00 Classic Coronator: Street 9.30 Emmandale Farm 10.00 Upstars, Downstars 11.00 The Gentle Touch 12.00 Classic Committon Seriet 12.00 resear Covening Street 12.00 pm Francedale Farm 1.00 The Many Wixes of Patrick 1.30 Me and My Grt 2.00 Upstars, Downstars 3.00 The Love Doat 4.00 The Professores 5.00 Harl to Hart 6.00 Emmertale Farm 8.30 Classic Cornelion Street 7.00 The Professionals 8.00 The Benny Hill Show 8.00 The Sweeney 10.00 The Brain Conley Show 10.30 Wheeltappers and Shunters Social

5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gndlock 6.00 My Two Wives 6.30 Our House 7.00

Lewis Carroll's classic edventure is brought to life in the animated version of *Alice in Wonderland* (Disney Channel, 7pm)

- Shine On, Harvey Moon 8.00 Chancer 9.00 The Upper Hand 9.30 Flying Start 10.00 Peak Practice 11.00 Hill Street Blues 12.00 My Two Virves 12.30em Gndlock 1.00 Close
- DISNEY CHANNEL 6.00am Gumm Bears 8.25 Classic Toons 6.35 Tele Spin 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 101 Dahmalians 8.00 Good Troop 8.25 Classic Toons 8.45 New Adventures of Wirme the Poon 8.00 The Adventures of Wirme the Poon 8.00 The Adventures of Spin 9.03 Animal Shelf 9.15 Pocket Dragons 9.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 9.55 The Toothbrush Family 10.00 Rus Sure 10.10 Report Limit 9.00 The House 9.55 The Tocarboush Family 10.00 Bite Size 10.10 Rose and Jim 10.30 The Big Garage 10.45 PB and J Otter 11.00 Sesame Street 12.00 The Adventures of Spol 12.05pm Animal Steal 12.15 Pockel Disgons 12.36 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Tocarboursh Family 1.00 Bite Size 1.10 Rose and Jim 1.30 The Big Garage 1.45 PB and J Otter 2.00 New Adventures of Wirnes the Prof. 3 no Chart Perk. 3 no

of Winnse the Poots 2.30 Quack Pack 3.00

The Little Mermaid 3.30 Art Altack 4.00 101

- Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 Fil.M. Alice in Wonderland (1851) 8.15 Horey, I Shrunk the Kids. The TV Stow 9.00 Double Drossums (19.00) None Improvement 10.30 Wonder (1885-14.09 Dr Ourn, Mediche Wonner (1895-14.09 Dr FOX KIDS NETWORK
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- TROUBLE" -7.00em USA High 7.30 Cty Guys 8.00 Saved by the Belt New Class 8.30 Hang Time 8.00 Tempesti 9.50 On the Make 10.00 Echo Point 18.38 Hollyceks 11.00 10.00 Echo Point 10.30 Hollycels 11.00 Sweet Valley High 11.30 Ready or Not 12.00 Fresh Princer of Bel-Air 12.30 pm in the House 1.00 Sweet 1.30 Tempest 2.20 On the Make 2.30 Hollycels 3.00 Ready or Not 3.30 City Guys 4.00 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air 4.30 in the House 5.00 Savect by the Beft New Class 5.30 Sweet Valley High 6.00 USA High 6.30 Blast Steps Special 7.00 Sweet 7.30 Hang Time
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- 7.00pm Jenny 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00 Ellen 8.30 Spin Cay 9.00 Drop the Dead Dorkey 9.30 Whose Line is it Anywey? 10.00 Fraser 10.30 Cheers 11.00 Serried 11.30 The Lany Senders Show 12.00 Late Night with Devid Lettermen 1.00em Text 1.30 Frontine 2.00 Dr Ketz 2.30 Tibs and 57% 3.00 Michietend 3.30 Althou and Fibs 3.00 Nightstand 3.30 Alzbeit and Costello 4.00 Close THE SCHIT CHANNEL SATELLITE: Spm-MIDNIGHT ONLY
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- Sarly Sour Simply Pasture year 18 18 orders Gardening Plot 19.00 Instant Gardens 18.30 Two's Country Cooking 11.00 The Deaman 11.25 The Home and Leisure House 11.30 Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures 12.00 Our House Down Under 12.30pm Antiques Trail 1.00 Our House 1.30 Hometime 2.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Vila 3.00 This Old House with Szeve and Norm 3.30 DISCOVERY 4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30 A River Somewhere 5.00 Hitler 8.00 Wildle SOS 6.30 Unterned Africa 7.30 The Quest

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HOME & LEISURE

- 2.00 Great Escapes 2.30 Out There 9.00 Trailblazers 10.00 Inlandse Descent in the Ice 11.00 Stient Warners 12.00 The Great Egyptiens 1.00am Hiter 2.00 Close ANIMAL PLANET 12.00am The New Adventures of Black Beauty 12.30pm Hollywood Safan 1.30 Crocodile Hunter 2.00 Breed All About R Greynounds 2.30 Human/Nature 3.30 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jack Harms's Animal Adventures 4.30 Animal Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Crocodile Hunters 6.00 The New Adjoritures of Black Beauty 6.39 Lasses 7.00 Rediscovery of the World 8.00 Animal Doctor 8.30 Totally Australia 9.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 The Last Peradisce 10.30 Animal Detectives 11.00 All-Bird TV
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- HISTORY
- CARLTON FOOD 9.00am Food Network Daily 9.30 Coxon's Richen College 10.00 The Green Gournet 10.30 First Taste 11.00 Worralt Thompson Cooks 11.30 A Sice of the Action 12.00 Food Network Daily 12.30pm Loyd's Louisiana 1.00 Coxon's Kitchen College 1.30 Thomoughly Modern Brissh 2.00 Chez Bruno 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Nordic Nosh 3.30 A Sice of the Action 4.00 Tessa's Tastebucks 4.30 Lunch with Ed Baines 5.00 Close
- Baines 5.00 Class LIVING 6.00am Tany and Crew 6.20 10 plus 2 6.40 6.00am Try and Crew 6.20 10 plus 2 6.40 Greedysaurus and the Gang 6.45 Phibert the Frog 6.30 Poles Doi Shorts 7.00 Practical Perenting 7.85 Professor Subble 7.30 Callou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.55 Practical Perenting 8.00 Barney and Finencia 8.25 Bebatoo 8.30 Try 16ats 6.35 Try and Crew 8.50 Practical Perenting 9.00 Special Babies 9.30 The Robeanne Show 10.00 The Jarry Springer Show 10.50 Meany Pouch 11.40 Brookside 12.10pm Through the Keytole 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10 round 11-A0 Brookside 12-10pm Through the Keyhole 12-A0 Rescue 911 1.10 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction 1.40 Meury Povich 2.30 Special Babies 3.00 The Living Room 3.50 Michael Cole 4.40 Through the Keyhole 5.10 The Heat is Cn 5.40 Ready. Steady. Cook 6.15 The Jeny Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.00 LA Law 9.00 FiLM: Lover's Knot (1995)
- ZEE TV 6.00am Punjabi Folk Songs 5.30 Old s Gold 6.00 App Ki Farmaish 6.30 Usha Uthap Show 7.00 Faith: Hindu 7.30 Daily Uning Show 7.00 Faith: Hindu 7.30 Daily News 8.00 Out and About 8.30 Tara 9.00 Himalaya's Hassaren 10.00 Yes Sir Eid, No Sir Eid 11.00 Kharra Khazane 11.30 Parampera 12.00 FBLN 3.00pm Bangla TV Nokhatiser Rat 3.30 Cine Magic 4.00 Aktes Birbal 4.30 Zee Top 10 5.30 Asshinyad 8.00 1.10 8.30 Humm Tara Rum 7.00 Jee Satech 7.30 Chair Cinema 8.00 News 8.20 Sahab 7.30 Chalo Cinema 8.00 News 8.30 Deraar 8.00 Do Aur Do Paanch 9.30 Zonjeeren 10.00 Hedd Kar Di 10.30 Mahabharal 11.30 Yaadon Ke Rang 12.00 News 12.30em P slusten Business Weel-1.00 Bangla TV 1.30 Parmartan 2.00 FILM: Urdu Movie 4.30 Lolly-Pop



TENNIS 49

Moya thrives on pressure of being new world No 1

SP()RT

CRICKET 50

Australia claw back initiative as McGrath takes five in Jamaica



TUESDAY MARCH 16 1999

Lewis camp fights for changed decision



Lewis: waiting for decision on rematch with Holyfield

possibility of having to go through meaningless contests to acquire the three belts that will give him the title of undisputed world heavyweight

As a result of the seriously flawed decision that robbed him of the title that would have given him univer-sal acciaim, he has to wait on a rematch with Evander Holyfield. He can also reflect ruefully that the British judge, Larry O'Connell, yesterday - sadly too late - acknowledged the error of his decision to make the contest a draw, although the admission should strengthen the Lewis camp's case for the result to be overturned.

If Holyfield decides to retire, Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, will have to meet the new World Boxing Association and Inter-

LENNOX LEWIS faces the distinct national Boxing Federation (IBF) champions. He would have no trouble disposing of the new incumbents but the impact of winning the undis-puted world title piecemeal would not have the same impact as lifting it from Holyfield.

It is not certain what Holyfield will do. At present, his lawyer is talking to Lewis's promoters, Panix. of London, about a rematch. But that course could prove difficult to follow because the purses will have to be split 50-50 and that might not appeal to Holyfield. Holyfield was reluctant to box for

his \$18 million (about £11 million) purse. He will have to take \$14 million for the rematch, assuming that HBO, the pay-per-view television network, would still guarantee \$28 million as it did for the last FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

It will be surprising if Holyfield agrees to a pay cut. Also, it is possible that Holyfield's family, realising that the Lewis bout pushed him deeper into physical decline, might persuade him to get out before he suffers serious injury, just as Mu-hammad Ali did by staying in box-

ing too long.

That is why Lewis's trainer,
Emanuel Steward, wants the decision to be changed through a special investigation. "I want to see the decision overturned," Steward said. This injustice should not stop here because I heard on television that the public gave Holyfield only one round. Decent, intelligent people. The fifth round should be the core of the investigation."

The judge, Eugenia Williams,

whose scoring came under severe criticism for giving the fifth round, Lewis's best, to Holyfield, is an IBF official. The IBF is at present the subject of a Senate inquiry.

Lewis's stature has suddenly grown here, with sports fans look-ing at him as a real champion. Some Americans who took bets on the fight are accepting that Lewis was

the winner and are paying up.

He will be staying here for two days for television appearances before returning to London. Lewis said yesterday: "I don't think Evander Holyfield is going to want a rematch. He was feeling disappointed at the end of the fight. He never even held up his hand.

Theld up my hand. I went over to.

"I held up my hand. I went over to say sorry, and he said, that's the

he lost. He looked bad after the fight, like a hurt man, like an old man and there was a lot of despair in his face. Physically, he looked

"It seems that he was a man living in a fantasy world who had just woken up. When somebody asked whether he wanted a rematch, he wasn't quick to give an answer and Don King jumped in talking some

"Holyfield should realise that a rematch could put him in some physical danger. He should start thinking about the health aspect. He claimed that he was suffering some cramp after the fight, but I heard a whisper that it was his ribs. Next time I'll knock him out."

Stewart added: "I never thought that Holyfield should have taken the

fight in the first place with Lennox, Last night he looked like an old slow, bald man. He should be man enough to say Lennox beat him."

enough to say Lennox beat nim."
Lewis said that this setback was typical of his career, which had been bedevilled by politics and top boxers, who had avoided him. He was now beginning to get used to the idea and realised that boxing was really about money. "I realise it's a business, more and more. If I don't get a rematch. I'll have to fight [Henry]

ness, more and more. I' I don't get a rematch. I'll have to fight [Henry] Akinwande and others. I hope Holyfield will give me a rematch and the quicker the better."

The only other opponent for Lewis is Mike Tyson. He said he will be happy to take him on after he has become the undisputed heavy-project charming. weight champion.

Judge's error, page [

Irish runners fancied for Festival record

By Alan Lee, racing correspondent

THE addictive Cheltenham madness descends today amid a growing conviction that Ireland could achieve a record number of winners. Last night, as the spa town began to fill with racegoers as restless as greyhounds in their traps, thousands of Irish folk were intent on starting three days of celebration by acclaiming Istabraq as the shortestpriced winner of the Champion Hurdle for 45 years.

Irish-trained horses have never won more than seven races at the Festival, but that figure, achieved in 1977 and 1996, is clearly under threat at a meeting that will begin in forecast sunshine, on drying ground - described as good to soft — and with more than 85 per cent of the 150,000 tickets already sold.

Ireland provides the favourite for the first three races today and bookmakers are preparing for an early onslaught. Sporting Index, the spread

No 1666

(4,2,6)

covery) (4-4)

shaft (6)

ACROSS

DOWN

slope (5)

l Copying others' work (10)

10 Peter Pan pirate captain (4)

13 Relative: pawnbroker (5)

14 In appropriate way (5)

16 A horse, an old joke (8)

20 Promise: be profane (5)

22 Dominant position (10)

■ SOLUTION TO NO 1665

21 Chiselling, forcing, out (7)

I Level of sound: steepness of

ACROSS: 1 Skew 3 Articled 8 Regular 10 Numbs 11 Contretemps 13 Excess 15 Anomie 17 Warm-blooded

DOWN: I Sprocket 2 Elgin 4 Rarity 5 Ignominious

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8 *Alice* illustrator (7)

9 To summarise (2.3)

11 US lawyer (8)

17 Coffin stand (4)

2 Henry VIII's Flanders Mare

3 An eye membrane (4)

4 Tell; be connected (6)

6 Underfed condition (12)

13 Material thrown out; mine

18 A school; a game (5) 19 Store of earmarked money

BOOKSHOP

7 Like sticky earth (6)

completing the hat-trick in Cheltenham Since being narrowly beat-



betting firm, began trading on Irish winners last Friday and report that one-way business has forced the market up from a buying level of 4.7 to 5.5.

Istabraq is likely to start around 2-1 on to become the first horse to retain the hurdling crown since See You Then in 1985. The last winner of the race at a comparable price was Sir Ken, 9-4 on when

> lighted to have one horse good enough to run, but Pipe is sending out no fewer than 21 on the opening day alone. Steve Gollings is at the other end of the training scale but he had his moment of glory when In Truth won the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase at 20-i last March and he aims for a repeat today, in every sense. He moved his horse into the

> > cessful pattern of last year. Cheltenham is an arena where many cling to superstitions and familiarity. Pat Taaffe, rider of Arkle, the greatest of all Irish champions, always stayed at the same hotel. Many thousands of others seek to return to regular bases but not all find it easy. Ruth Hampson, of the town's tourist office, reported yesterday that demand for accomodation has been higher than ever this year

racecourse yard at the week-

for the third successive year.

"I started booking back in September, two months ahead of normal, and the level of enquiries has never slackened." she said. "There will be a queue of people outside my office in the morning, all arrived with nowhere to stay. I suspect there will also be some unsuspecting Japanese tour-ists who have no idea what is going on."

5 Incidental benefits (from dis-Those who stay for the party may help to drink 14,000 bottles of champagne and 50,000 bottles of beer - and that is 12 Dancers' stretchy garments simply inside the racecourse. At the Queen's Hotel, where the practice for years was to strip the fover of fine paintings 15 Colourful cagebird (abbr.) (6) and antique furniture and bring in garden chairs for the week, the restaurant has been converted into a long, functional Guinness bar. The Irish, after all. may have plenty of



Florida Pearl, the big Irish hope for the Gold Cup on Thursday, crops the spring grass at Cheltenham in a moment of tranquility before the storm of excitement breaks today

THE PERSON NAMED AND PARTY OF

TODAY ON PAGES 46 AND 47

 Follow your fancy in today's feature race, the Smurfit Champion Hurdle, with a full colours guide to the runners and riders Alan Lee talks to Rod Simpson, whose chequered training career has brought him to Cheltenham today with Nipper Reed

 Day-by-day guide to the Irish prospects TOMORROW AND THURSDAY

 The Times team of Alan Lee, Chris McGrath, Rob Wright and Simon Barnes will bring you the best coverage of the three days



Italy aches as Ronaldo calls in the doctor

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MILAN

THE extent of the obsession with the fitness of the world's best footballer became apparent yet again yesterday when into a panic because Ronaldo had missed a training session suffering from a bad head-

The news that a doctor had been called to attend to the Brazilian in the early hours of the morning at the Internazionale training camp at Appiano Gentile immediately raised concerns that Ronaldo was succumbing to the same stresses and strains that sent him into convulsions before the World

Cup final last summer.

The pressure on him has hardly relented since then, and now, after a two-month absence because of a lingering knee injury, Inter are pinning all their hopes on his return as they prepare to try to overturn their 2-0 deficit against Manchester United in the second leg of their European Cup quarter-final here tomorrow

Inter, though, insisted that the speculation was ridiculous. There is nothing mystespokeswoman said. "If was only a headache, nothing serious, nothing terrible. Anyway, he trained fully with the rest of the team this afternoon. There is no problem."

There are no problems for

Manchester United. At training yesterday the only player tion was David May, the defender, who has struggled against injury all season. A party of 22 was due to fly to Milan this morning, taking with them Nicky Butt, the midfield player, who has recovered quickly from a hip injury. Cru-cially, Peter Schmeichel has

recovered from a bout of flu. Ronny Johnsen could be preferred to Henning Berg as the partner to Jaap Stam in the United defence. Stam, who has played with and against Ronaldo, yesterday spoke of his sympathy for the pressure that the Brazil forward is under but Alex Ferguson, the United manager, remained i an unforgiving mood.
"Inter did not manage to

score an away goal in the first leg," Ferguson said, "and they will realise how important that could be. One more from us tomorrow and we could put the tie beyond their reach."

Stam feels that it is unfair to

expect so much from someone as young as Ronaldo, 22. "I know Ronaldo very well," Brazilian briefly at PSV Eind-hoven, said. "I feel sorry for him now as he's under so much pressure all the time."

> Stadium of fright, page 48 Barnsley's test, page 48

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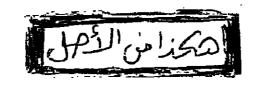
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